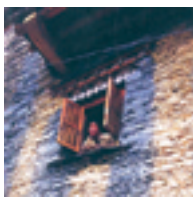


Every adult girl has a special room in her mother's home where her lover can visit by climbing in through the window at night.

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The irresistible music and movement of salsa are sure to get all but the most dance-reluctant onto the dance floor.

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"Pursuing the culture of waste is a dead end for China. If everyone tries to have a life like that, our future is bleak."

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# BEIJING TODAY

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## Ten Areas for Attention

### Beijing Capital International Airport

**Positives:** Announcements made in Chinese and English, signs use universally recognized symbols, international time zone display screen.

**Negatives:** Linguistic support limited to Chinese and English, misplaced commercialism, confusing traffic signs.

**Suggestions:** Use other major languages besides Chinese and English on signs. Install more ATMs that accept foreign cards with a wider selection of language options.

### Tourist Facilities

**Positives:** English speaking service staff and tour guides are available at hotels. Beijing subway has some clear warning signs in stations.

**Negatives:** Traffic problems, pollution, future lack of English speaking attendants; rigid timing with tour guides. Hotel staff seldom recommend the subway. Subway stations are hard to find on the street.

**Suggestions:** Improve subway signage, provide maps in hotels highlighting subway. Install location-tracking maps on all subway carriages.

### Bus network

**Negatives:** Lack of English signs and maps. Where pinyin is used, words like *qiao* (bridge), *lu* (street), *dajie* (road) are meaningless to non Chinese speakers.

**Suggestions:** Publish bus guides in other languages. More marquee screens and announcements in buses. Use combination of pinyin and translation for place names.

### Vendors in Public Areas

**Negatives:** Foreigners often mobbed by vendors and feel obliged to buy something in order to escape a situation. Often difficult to appreciate cultural sites without being bombarded with requests to buy something.

**Suggestions:** Educate vendors about foreign cultural norms to reduce cultural misunderstandings. Provide tourists with guidelines about Chinese culture, sales practices and reasonable prices. Establish quality control measures for goods sold in public spaces. Introduce fines or confiscation of goods for people who misrepresent the quality of goods sold.

### Telecommunications and Communication

**Positives:** International, long distance and local phone calls are easy to make from major hotels. IP and IC cards readily available. IP cards offer English as a language choice. Internet cafes are widely available and inexpensive.

**Negatives:** Hotel telecommunication services are the most convenient, but also the most expensive. Instructions for IP cards are often unclear and

complicated. Certain cards require certain types of telephone. Certain emails are blocked from Chinese receivers.

**Suggestions:** Standardize IP card usage and provide maps that indicate the location of internet cafes.

### Recycling

**Negatives:** Contents of recycling bins often the same as trash; some signs have English, some do not; some have symbols, some do not

**Suggestions:** Introduce uniform recycling symbols; recycling education should be more specific and target children

### Facilities for the handicapped

The coming of the Paralympics means large numbers of disabled athletes and their families moving in and around Beijing.

**Negatives:** As it is now, wheelchair-users will encounter some difficulties staying in Beijing. Elevators for the handicapped at Beijing Railway Station are poorly marked. Access to the subway is by escalator or stairs, there are no obvious facilities for the handicapped.

### Public Health and Safety Information

**Positives:** Beijing provides safety warnings in English. Some public toilets are quite clean.

**Negatives:** Some public toilets lack paper and soap.

**Suggestions:** Post more signs in both English and Chinese promoting good sanitation practices. Provide SARS information on existing websites. Offer SARS fact sheets or general public health information to incoming foreign visitors at airport.

### Taxis

**Positives:** Drivers seldom deliberately make detours to increase the bill.

**Negatives:** Many taxi drivers tell passengers not to use seat belts and seat belts sometimes do not work.

**Suggestions:** Enact legislation requiring front seat taxi passengers to wear seat belts and regulate seat belt codes for taxis

### Emergency and Public Safety Communications

**Positives:** Beijing is already developing new emergency clinics and updating safety procedures.

**Negatives:** Emergency call numbers are different from those in other countries.

**Suggestions:** Publicize hospital, clinic and emergency contact numbers or establish a single, universal contact number for all emergencies.



The report urges that uniform standards be adopted for recycling.

Photos provided by Zhao Xinshu

## Minority Report City Services in the Spotlight

By James Liu

Athens, host city of the Olympic Games, has impressed the world with its ability to accommodate competitors and tourists from 202 countries and regions.

Beijing's ability to offer first-class service to foreigners is not simply a question of time. A recent study carried out in Beijing suggests that there are areas in terms service level and concept of service that could be improved.

The report is the result of two months of research and interviews by 15 students from the University of North Carolina (UNC), with assistance from students from the School of Journalism at Renmin University.

Zhao Xinshu, a professor from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at UNC told *Beijing Today* Wednesday that the goal of the study was to give "a straight, direct impression from those fresh eyes. We have enough flattery, we need some honest criticism."

With the assistance of their fellow students from Renmin University, the American students identified 10 areas, covering the whole process of a foreign visitor's stay in Beijing. In some areas, the service level exceeded the students' expectations, but other areas proved not so satisfactory.

Professor Zhao and the students delivered the report to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) last Wednesday. "BOCOG and the Beijing Municipal Government may not immediately adopt these suggestions. However, it is important that they hear different voices," Zhao said in a telephone interview with *Beijing Today* this Wednesday.

BOCOG acting Media and Communications officer Li Fanghui told *Beijing Today* the report had been passed on to the People's Olympics Studies Center for further research and study. "We will actively respond to these suggestions," Li said, "Though there are too many negatives in the report!"

Executive director of the People's Olympics Studies Center, professor Jin Yuanpu, commented positively on the students' motives and efforts. "The students were very serious about the study and they are willing to do something for Beijing," said Jin.

Jin has forwarded a revised edition of the report to Beijing Spiritual Civilization Promotion Committee, which is drafting a People's Olympics action plan for BOCOG and the municipal government. Wang Jianjun, a staff member at the center, told *Beijing Today* that the draft plan will be completed in the coming week and sent to the Beijing Municipal People's Congress for approval. "The draft plan includes the major and concrete tasks for the next four years for the government and BOCOG," Wang said.

Zhao Xinshu says he will lead another 15 students to carry out a similar study in Beijing next spring. "Based on the results of the two studies, I'll set up an organization to research the results and offer advice to the government," he said.

Zhao was highly critical of the practice of basing place names on signs on the pinyin transliteration, saying this only served to confuse non-Chinese speakers. "Why should we use Changhong Qiao, instead of Changhong Bridge?" he asked.

Zhao's opinion was echoed by Shen Yuping, a professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University. Shen, who lectures in translation studies, told *Beijing Today* that meaning should be the priority when translating the name of a place. "*Qiao* (bridge) means nothing to (a non Chinese speaker), but they can understand 'Changhong Bridge' is a bridge named 'Changhong'," Shen said.

An employee at the Comprehensive Business Division under Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning, who declined to give her name, told *Beijing Today* that all names of places, roads, streets, overpasses and bridges should be spelled in Chinese pinyin according to a regulation issued by the State Council on January 23, 1986. "On December 2, 1987, a notice issued by the Place Name Committee of the Ministry of Civil Affairs further stated this principle, saying 'all place names should adopt Chinese Pinyin. Wade-Giles Spelling System and other translations are strictly prohibited,'" she said.

*Beijing Today* contacted Chen Ying, a Chinese correspondent currently in Athens for the Olympic Games, to comment on how the problems raised in the

report related to the situation in that city. Chen said extensive foreign language services were provided to reporters and travelers. "It's easy for anyone to get help from the volunteers on the streets, in the kiosks, or near the stadiums or in the media centers. Thousands of volunteers from all over the world prepare to help foreigners."

He also said that it is very convenient for foreigners to travel on the metro in Athens, and that dur-

ing the Games, journalists can use public transport for free.

Comparisons between Athens and Beijing in the areas investigated by the 15 students suggest that Beijing may not have quite so much ground to make up. Common faults affecting any major metropolis are easily exaggerated under a magnifying glass. However, Beijing cannot afford to fall behind Athens in its pursuit of staging a true people's Olympics.

## Dancing with Debbie Allen

Renowned African-American dancer, choreographer and singer Debbie Allen will come to Beijing as a cultural ambassador for the United States at the end of August. Beijing dance lovers are invited to attend a special jazz dance class given by Allen on August 31.

*Beijing Today* is cooperating with the US Embassy to stage the event, and is offering to treat up to 200 readers to take advantage of this opportunity and enjoy the magic of jazz dance.

Debbie Allen was born in Houston, Texas in 1950, and studied dance privately with a former dancer from the Ballet Russes. In 1954 she became the first African-American dancer to be admitted to the Houston Foundation for Ballet.

She began her show business career on Broadway in the 1970s, and won a Tony Award nomination for her critically acclaimed performance in the 1979 production of *West Side Story*.

Allen's charismatic stage presence and innovative choreography enabled her to rise rapidly from the Broadway stage to television. She received two Emmy nominations for direction and choreography of the ABC special *The Debbie Allen Show*.

*Beijing Today* readers interested in attending the dance workshop with Debbie Allen should write a brief self-introduction, and mail it to: yushanshan724@ynet.com. Amateur dancers from 14 to 35-years-old are especially welcomed.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: JIAN RONG  
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## Free Personal Classifieds

Beijing Today is launching a free personal classifieds service. For sale and wanted ads, situations wanted and vacant, language exchange and personals, and rentals will be

printed free of charge. Email your personal classifieds (in English and Chinese) to info@ynet.com. Personal classifieds should conform to relevant laws and regulations.



One of the 15 American students talks with a local vendor while conducting the survey.



## Water Cube Faces Design Dilemma

By Chu Meng

The National Swimming Center for the Beijing Olympics, popularly known as "the Water Cube," is facing structural queries and difficult questions brought about by a group of specialists from the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Dong Cong, director of the core techniques design group of Olympic venues structures, confirmed to *Beijing Today* Tuesday that problems had been raised.

The Water Cube was co-designed by the China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) and Australian companies Arup Engineering Group and PTW Architects. The building will have a steel frame and will be coated with a transparent material called ETFE foil cushions, which will create a greenhouse effect.

However academicians claimed in a test report that the transparent and filmy nature of the hi-tech material would frustrate construction work.

ETFE allows high levels of natural daylight into the building and also allows the harnessing of the power of the sun to passively heat the building and pool water. It was originally estimated that it would reduce energy consumption by about 30 percent.

However, by cladding the building in hi-tech ETFE cushions, the center will trap 20 percent of the solar energy falling on the building, heating not only the water in the swimming pool, but also the entire interior of the center. Moreover, the transparent ETFE foil has virtually no ability to block ultra-violet radiation.

Another point in the report was that the facilities would be used prior and post games as a multi-purposes leisure swimming center oriented to citizens. However there is another swimming center, the Yingdong Swimming Center, less than one kilometer to the south, which will impact negatively on the economic value of the center.

## Insurers Get Green Light on Overseas Forex Investment

China has for the first time given domestic insurers the go-ahead to invest their foreign exchange assets in overseas financial markets, according to a new regulation issued by the country's financial authorities.

The regulation, jointly issued by the People's Bank of China and the State Insurance Regulatory Commission (SIRC), allows qualified Chinese insurers to invest mainly in bonds on overseas markets, while giving top priority to asset safety.

The move is expected to have a far-reaching significance in widening the channel for the insurance industry to operate their funds, ward off risks and improve investment returns, an SIRC official said.

According to the insurance watchdog, the Chinese insurance industry had in hand foreign exchange totaling US 49.775 billion at the end of June. The major sources include the capital fund and operating funds of foreign-invested and joint-venture insurance companies, the foreign shares of Chinese insurance companies, accumulated foreign exchange assets in insurance companies' foreign currency business, and funds collected by three Chinese insurance companies from overseas listing.

Due to a lack foreign exchange investment tools in the domestic market, the majority of the foreign exchange assets of Chinese insurers have been put in domestic banks as deposits. As a result of the falling interest rate of forex savings, the profit of domestic insurance companies in terms of forex-denominated assets has continued to fall over the last few years.

According to the official, the new regulation will also help Chinese insurance companies to participate in international competition, balance the nation's international payment, and alleviate the growing pressure on the exchange rate of the Chinese currency.

China's foreign exchange reserves rose to US \$470.6 billion at the end of June, 67.3 billion more than at the beginning of this year. (Xinhua)



## Publishing Sector Opens Wider

China has further opened its publication, distribution and printing sectors in accordance with its commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO), said a senior official with the State Press and Publication Administration on Wednesday.

Vice-director of the State Press and Publication Administration, Yu Yongzhan, said at a press conference that remarkable progress has been made in opening China's publishing industry, and that currently, most foreign investment is concentrated in the printing sector.

According to Yu, China will open its book, newspaper and periodical wholesale market to overseas investors by the end of this year. By then overseas investors will be allowed to form book, newspaper and periodical wholesale and retail firms.

The administration approved

foreign investment worth US \$568 million in 102 printing enterprises in 2002 and \$469 million in 84 printing enterprises in 2003, revealed Yu, adding that the robust foreign investment momentum was maintained during the January-June period this year.

In the sphere of publication distribution, China has opened its retail distribution market to investors from overseas and is preparing to open its wholesale market from the end of this year, said Yu.

"It means foreign publishers could open any kind of publication distribution company in China through both joint investment and exclusive investment," he explained.

According to Yu, China's cross-border copyright trade has boomed in recent years.

The copyright of *Chinese National Geographic* magazine was sold in Japan in 2002 and

since then, more than 50,000 volumes of the Japanese version of the magazine have been sold in that country. Currently, negotiations are underway on selling the copyright for the magazine's English, Swedish and Malay versions.

Latest statistics released by the State Press and Publication Administration show that China spent US \$1.7 billion on importing foreign publications in 2003, while earning \$24.69 million selling Chinese publications overseas. Last year, China imported 12,516 copyrights and exported 811 copyrights.

Chinese government still banned foreign publishing organizations from setting up branches in China. Overseas investors are not permitted to publish books, newspapers, periodicals, audio-video products or electronic publications in China.

(Xinhua)

## Car Loans Open to Expats

By Annie Wei

Expatriates driving their company or embassy cars on local roads has become a common scene in Beijing. Now, foreign workers are allowed to apply for personal loans from Chinese banks to purchase their own cars.

An announcement by the People's Bank of China and China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) Tuesday says all mainland citizens, citizens from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and expatriates from other countries who have been living in China over a year are eligible to apply for car loans. The new regulation will

take effect from October 1.

The People's Bank of China started allowing state-owned commercial banks to offer car loans in 1998. With the new regulation, credit cooperatives in both urban and rural areas, other banks, auto financing companies, such as Volkswagen and Toyota financing companies, can also provide car loans. A report in *Beijing Youth Daily* Wednesday says that foreign banks licensed to conduct RMB credit business will be granted access to the car loan business in 2006.

The new regulation requires

lenders to set up an auto loan information system to monitor the repayment and communicate with other lenders.

Kerry Holahan, of APCO Beijing Strategic Communication, obtained her driving license in Beijing recently. Holahan told *Beijing Today* that she had heard from a friend that foreigners could now take out car loans, "I might buy a car in the future. But now I'm not planning on buying a car. Cars are expensive in China, and the traffic is not good either. But I like driving and sometimes I can borrow my friends' car. That's why I need a license."

## Subscriber TV Seeks Private Capital

By Sun Yongjian

An unnamed source at the State Administration of Radio Film and Television (SARFT) told *Beijing News* Monday that SARFT is considering allowing domestic capital, including private capital, to participate in the operation of subscriber TV Channels.

Such capital will be limited to participating in investment, operation and dividend sharing. Censorship, broadcasting and over-all decision making will remain in the hands of the owners of the subscriber channels.

Eleven domestic media institutions have lodged applications for nationwide subscriber TV licences. Four of them, including Shanghai TV and China Cable Television, have been granted licences to prepare for the construction of the channels, according to the report.

## Australian FM Initiates Study of China's Economic Status

By Chu Meng

Australian foreign minister Alexander Downer arrived in Beijing Monday for a two-day visit, during which he met with top Chinese officials to discuss bilateral energy trade and launch a study of China's economic status.

At a press conference Tuesday, Downer said that a series of surveys and evaluations will be conducted by Australian industrial and commercial entities, and a feasibility report will be finished around March 2005.

"If a round-up of economic indexes can confirm that China has got a real marketing economic status, we will consider signing a Free Trade Agreement with China. And it would be the first such agreement signed by China with a developed country. However we should first be clear about which commodities will really impact on Australian industrial products," said Downer.

He also expressed a strong inclination to motivate Australia-China cooperation in the energy trade, especially in the fields of natural gas and coal. He believed that it was a timely opportunity for Australian energy companies to enter the potential Chinese market.

## Rules Tightened on Acquisition of SOEs

By Annie Wei

The State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration of the State Council (SASAC) says problems have arisen since July last year in state-owned enterprises acquisition, according to *China Youth Daily* Monday.

The problems relate to acquisitions not conforming with relevant national policy and incomplete evaluation.

In a move to address these problems, SASAC has released a notice highlighting five points for acquisition of state-owned enterprises: The acquisition of state-owned enterprises must abide by the national macro economic policy, and should be reported in advance to SASAC if the company is in the steel, electrolytic aluminum or concrete industry; Overseas acquisitions should be approved by SASAC before reporting to government bureaus; State-owned enterprises should adhere to set strategies before acquisition and the acquisition should be in a related field; State-owned enterprises should carry out property and risk assessment to ensure the bid is reasonably priced, and assume responsibility for any acquired business credit and debt, employees and land usage; State-owned enterprises should not bid between each other.

## Tariff Duty Policy Revision to Heed Enterprise Comments

By Liu An

The Ministry of Finance is improving communication channels with enterprises to effect tariff duty policy revision. Enterprises can now report tariff duty problems and unfair tariff barrier treatment to the Ministry of Finance through the Finance Bureau of Beijing. The Ministry of Finance will reference their comments when revising the following year's tariff duty policy, *Beijing Morning Post* reported Tuesday.

In April, the Ministry of Finance handed part of the tariff duty function to local finance bureaus. The Beijing Finance Bureau is qualified to join the work of drawing up the annually tariff duty policy revision plan. Local finance bureaus will collect information and comments from enterprises and report to the Ministry of Finance.

The Beijing Finance Bureau will collect information on tariff duty from enterprises until August 25. On September 1, all collected information will be collated for the 2005 conference on tariff duty policy revision.

According to Director Zu of the Beijing Finance Bureau, the collected information covers suggestions on current tariff duty policy, tariff barrier problems faced by export enterprises, and imported products dumped on the Chinese market.

## Shanghai to Built Longest Tunnel

By Annie Wei

The State Council approved Shanghai's Chongming cross-river tunnel project Monday, which, according to a report in the *Financial Times* last month, had been halted due to an adjustment to China's macro-economic policy.

A report in Xinhuanet Monday said that Chongming Island is the next strategic highlight of Shanghai's development after Pudong. Currently, a ferry is the only form of transport between Chongming Island and downtown Shanghai.

The project will not only provide convenient transportation, but also develop the city space and promote the economic growth in Yangtze River Delta area.

## Shenzhen Steps Up Anti Money Laundering Efforts

By Xun Yan

Money laundering investigations have intensified since August 1 at the Shenzhen branch of the People's Bank Of China, according to a Xinhua News Agency report Saturday.

Banks in Shenzhen have set limits on personal cash deposits, withdrawals and account transfers. Customers who wish to make a withdrawal of over 200,000 yuan must make an appointment with the bank one day in advance, while those depositing sums of over 500,000 yuan should provide proof of the legal source of the income. In addition, there is a limit of two withdrawals with a maximum of 100,000 yuan each on money transferred into a personal account within the same day.



# Siemens Subsidiary Accused of Swiping Chinese Trademark

By Sun Yongjian

Domestic lighting materials producer Firefly Lighting Co. has accused Osram GMBH, a fully owned subsidiary of Germany-based Siemens AG, of illegally registering its trademark name in Europe, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported on Monday.

"This is a business battle. Siemens' intent is to hold back the flow of Chinese products to the European market, especially since they have been selling well in Poland," Firefly Lighting General Manager Jia Qiang said in an interview with *Beijing Today* on Wednesday.

Sources from Siemens China denied any malicious intent in the registration, explaining it was used on a different line of products in the European market, and called the matter an unfortunate coincidence.

Osram registered the Firefly trademark in Germany in June 2001 without providing informa-

tion about the Chinese owner of the brand, the *Beijing Youth Daily* report said. The overlap was discovered in May this year when Poland joined the European Union. Surplus China-made products started flowing out from the country into the European market, but their sales were blocked by Osram's trademark.

It then became known that similar trademarks had been registered in 18 other European countries, such including England, France and Spain, Jia said.

He said that Siemen's malicious intent was clear, because the trademark was registered shortly after his company and the German giant were embroiled in an anti-dumping case in the EU against imported Chinese lighting products. Moreover, during a trip to Europe this May, he found no Siemens products in the EU market carrying the Firefly trademark, he added.

"We have requested Germany's



China's Firefly Lighting has charged a Siemens subsidiary with illegally using its trademarked name.

Deutschland Patent Trademark Bureau nullify Osram's trademark through a local lawyer who participated in the drafting of the EU's trademark law, and our request has been accepted," Jia said.

Local Siemens sources told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that the whole affair was an unfortunate coincidence with no pre-meditation.

"The trademark is being used for LED (light-emitting diodes) products made by Osram OPTO Semi-conductor, a fully indepen-

dent business unit of Osram Company, and sold in the European market," Wang Junyan, media specialist for corporate communications of Siemens Ltd. China, said.

"This is a coincidence. The trademark was registered on June 25, 2001, according to the standard goods of international class nine, which is for electronic class and class eleven which is for electrical lighting, and unintentionally held back sales of the products of Firefly Lighting Co."

The explanation was echoed by the marketing department manager of Foshan, Guangdong Province-based Osram Foshan Lighting Co., who asked not to be named.

"This is definitely not a case of malicious registration, it is a complete coincidence," he said.

"The trademark was registered by a fully independent unit of Osram named Osram OPTO Semi-conductor for its LED products, which are sold in the European market."

## Execs Nabbed for Embezzlement at Bank of China HK

By Sun Yongjian

Two senior administrative executives of the Bank of China (Hong Kong), an independent branch of the Bank of China (BOC), have been arrested for embezzlement of massive amounts of funds, a source from the bank's mainland headquarters told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

The apprehension of former vice presidents Zhu Chi and Ding Yansheng is the latest chapter in the Hong Kong arm's struggles, which have taken down four top bank executives. Former President Liu Jinbao was kicked out of office last year in an illegal loan scandal involving Shanghai real estate mogul Zhou Zhengyu, and former vice president Ke Wenya was also previously pushed to resign ahead of schedule.

The funds embezzled by Zhu and Ding belonged to the mainland bank, BOC spokesman Wang Zhaowen, said.

"This case of funds misappropriation has nothing to do with the case of former President Liu Jinbao, who violated bank loan regulations," Wang said.

Bank of China (Hong Kong) issued an announcement on Monday saying it would launch a global search to fill the two vacant vice president positions. Headhunting companies would be hired to assist in the search, the statement said.

"The financial status and performance of the bank will not be affected by these affairs," the announcement said.

## Corn Futures Ripe for Trading

By Sun Yongjian

Domestic trading of corn futures was approved by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) on Tuesday and would be launched at the Dalian Commodity Exchange in Liaoning Province, the commission announced that day.

Corn is the third new futures product approved by the CSRC this year, following the commission's green lighting of fuel oil futures trading at the Shanghai Futures Exchange in April and cotton futures trading at the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange in Henan Province in June.

Actual trading would begin after necessary preparations were completed, said the CSRC news release.

The Dalian exchange had prepared contracts, rules and technology to guarantee stable operation of trading and planned to launch the futures as soon as possible, an exchange spokesman who asked to go unnamed told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday.

Tuesday's approval makes corn the first food futures product approved by Chinese authorities since 1998, when an industry clean-up led to the cancellation of many futures products around the country, China News Net reported Wednesday.

China is the world's second biggest corn consumer and the 120 million tons of corn produced every year account for around one-third of the country's total annual grain output, the report said.

A diabetes drug made by a GSK company using the formerly-patented material rosiglitazone tartrate

## GSK Drops Disputed Pharm Patent

By Sun Yongjian

British-based pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline PLC (GSK) abandoned its patent registered in China in July 2003 for *rosiglitazone tartrate*, a main ingredient in the production of diabetes medicines, the *Beijing News* said on Thursday.

Three domestic companies filed a challenge against the patent earlier this month, as *Beijing Today* reported on August 6, and the State Intellectual Property Bureau held a hearing on Wednesday to decide the fate of the patent.

That hearing lasted only five minutes, as GSK quickly announced it was voluntarily giving up its patent as of August 10, the *Beijing News* said.

"GSK has decided to give up the patent which protects rosiglitazone tartrate and not to participate in the deliberations after cautious evaluation of the present condition," Xiao Weiqun, manager of the external affairs department of GSK China told the *Information Times* newspaper on Wednesday.

Xu Guowen, president of Beijing-based Amboyna Patent Intellectual Property Agent, which was entrusted by the three domestic factories to fight the patent, said, "GSK has to give up the patent. The first reason is the domestic side provided sufficient evidence. And second, the patent registered in 2003 was not in line with the requirements for originality and creativity in China's patent law."

## Power Plant Sales Could Bag \$2 Billion

China is preparing to sell up to 11 power plants in a move that could raise some \$2 billion to upgrade infrastructure and alleviate chronic electricity shortages.

Crienglish.com cited Britain's *Financial Times* as reporting that the State Grid Corporation of China was believed to have appointed two international investment banks, Goldman Sachs and UBS, to manage the sale, which was expected to begin in the next few months.

The sale of the power stations, part of a small proportion of total generating capacity left with State Grid, will provide it with funds needed to upgrade infrastruc-

ture. It could also bolster its balance sheet ahead of a possible overseas listing in the next few years.

State media have described the 11 power plants, which have a combined capacity of 6,470 megawatts mainly in central northwest and eastern China, as of relatively good quality.

International power generators have little presence in China but have long hoped to gain a bigger foothold because the country's rapid economic expansion is expected to fuel strong growth in energy demand.

(Xinhua)

## Bank Deal Offers Credit Card Holders Convenience

By Annie Wei

Four domestic banks signed an agreement last Friday to allow their credit card holders to make payments at any of their over 1,000 branches in 48 domestic cities.

Shengzhen Development Bank, CITIC Bank, Guangzhou Development Bank and Minsheng Bank inked the deal in order to ex-

pand their positions in China's credit card market, said a statement on one of the banks' websites.

Cross-bank payments are capped at 50,000 yuan and foreign currency transactions are not allowed, according to the cooperation agreement. A 2 yuan service fee would be charged for each such transaction, the statement said.

## Nationwide Publication Distribution Network Debuts

China's first nationwide publication distribution company was born in Beijing on Wednesday.

The company, Little Red Cap, is based on the newspaper distribution network dominated by *Beijing Youth Daily*. It has been authorized to run nationwide wholesale and retail sales of newspapers, magazines, books and electronic publications through chain branches around the country.

The new publication distribution network union has 29

member newspapers and distribution companies with daily circulation of 15 million copies and nearly 100,000 employees. The annual advertising revenues of the union are nearly 10 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion), half of the total earned by all newspapers in this country.

China has yet to totally open its publishing and distribution markets to overseas investment, but things are gradually changing, according to China's State Administration of Press and Publication. (Xinhua)

## Online Bookstore Targets Overseas IPO

By Sun Yongjian

Dangdang.com, one of China's leading online bookstores, announced Thursday that it planned to hold an initial public offering overseas in 2005, two years ahead of schedule.

The ambitious plan was set after the Beijing-based company spurned a \$150 million takeover offer from giant US-based online bookseller Amazon.com Inc., the company said at the press release.

Amazon.com offered to purchase a 70 to 90 percent stake in Dangdang.com in March 2003 on the strengths of the

Chinese company's solid IT operating systems, according to the announcement.

"The \$150 million purchasing program was an underestimation of Dangdang.com's value," Li Guoqing, one of the company's presidents said Thursday, "because the market value of Dangdang.com could possibly reach over \$500 million in two or three years."

US-based Tiger Funds invested \$11 million in Dangdang.com in February this year, pushing the advance of its IPO plan, the news release said.

## Fully Foreign Owned Auto Financier Approved

By Sun Yongjian

Volkswagen (China) Auto Financial Co. last Thursday received a license to launch auto financing services in RMB currency, making it the first wholly-foreign owned investment company approved to run such business, Sina.com reported last Friday.

The license came in days after Shanghai-based SAIC GM became the country's first approved joint-venture auto finance firm.

Germany-based Volkswagen Auto Financial Service Share-

holding Co. has invested 500 million yuan in Volkswagen Auto Financial (China) Company.

Burkhard Breiing, chairman of the board of Volkswagen Auto Financial Service said that in its first phase of operation, the company would focus on providing private car buyers with financing services.

"We'll launch close cooperation with authorized agents and joint ventures of Volkswagen to promote a completely new commercial model," Breiing was quoted as saying by Sina.com.

## Yum Shifts from Burgers to Baozi

By Sun Yongjian

International restaurant operator Yum Group has diversified its presence in the domestic market with the Shanghai launch of East Dawning, a new fast food restaurant that specializes in Chinese-style snacks such as wontons, dumplings and noodles, the *Beijing News* reported last Saturday.

Yum has already had great luck in this country on the strength of its KFC and Pizza-hut restaurant chains.

"This is Yum's only Chinese fast food restaurant. It opened

in May and is still in trial operation," Wang Qun, senior manager of Yum's public relations department, told *Beijing Today* on Monday.

"The market for Chinese food is vast and has huge potential, so we are very interested in exploring that market."

A sign hanging over the door to the restaurant reads, "Chinese people's fast food!", the *Beijing News* said.

Wang would not comment on plans to promote the East Dawning brand in other domestic cities or overseas.

## Securities Firms Launch Account Reforms

By Sun Yongjian

Domestic securities firms are planning to implement deep-reaching reforms of account administration this year to strengthen the safety of investors' earnest money, *Shanghai Securities* reported on Monday.

Pilot operation of the reforms would start in a few firms, such as Shenyin & Wanguo Securities Co., Guotai Junan Securities Co., Haitong Securities Co. and Everbright Securities, the report said.

Integrated administration will be launched for investors'

earnest accounts in Shenyin & Wanguo Securities Co., Ltd. in order to avoid the misappropriation of earnest money, a problem that has long plagued some subsidiaries.

Guotai Junan Securities had developed an openly supervised account administration system that it planned to make operational by the end of this year, the report said.

Everbright Securities would establish a registration administrative center in order to keep close records of investors' funds and make assets transparent to supervisors, it said.



# Old Idea, New Life

August 16, (Joong Ang Daily) – The idea of a railroad tunnel under the sea to link Korea to Japan has been revived by a Japanese private-sector construction group and project enthusiasts in Korea.

According to some preliminary studies of the Sea of Japan's floor by Japanese scientists, the best routes linking Japan and Korean would

be about 200 kilometers in length and about four times the length of the Channel Tunnel that links France and Great Britain. Last Sunday the Japan-Korea Tunnel Research Association said it would begin a joint research project with Korean specialists to build such a tunnel. The research would take two or three years.

Advocates from the two sides called such a tunnel the per-

fect final link to a transcontinental Europe-Asia railroad. Lee Chang-hoon, the honorary president of Halla University said to the local media that the tunnel was essential to realize Korea's dream of becoming Northeast Asia's economic hub, and predicted that the economic benefits would be at least double the construction cost.

However, the Construction Ministry asked the Korea Transport Institute and the Korea Railroad Research Institute to draw up a report on the disadvantages of the scheme. They cited, among other reasons, the location of the proposed tunnel in an active earthquake region. Therefore the cost-benefit balance of a tunnel was inferior to that of a combination of air and maritime traffic.

## Analyst's Take:

*It is a move to stimulate close*

*bilateral economic cooperation between Japan and Korea. We all know that Japan, Korea and China are the three largest economies in North-East Asia, accounting for a dominant amount of the total economic scale in the region. Therefore, the signing of free trade agreements and upgrading mutual economic and industrial cooperation significantly promotes the economic development of North-East Asia.*

*However, in our surveys, we came to the conclusion that though Japan and South Korea share similar systems of government and economic models, the similarities between the industrial sectors of the two countries are in fact unbelievably few. For example, they both have advanced automobile industries, but the large trade volume is only between Japan and the US or South Korea and the US, little*

*between the two. So they have a more competitive relationship rather than a cooperative one. This is damaging factor for regional economic development in Asia.*

*In recent years, transportation infrastructure construction has received more and more attention in Japan, Korea and China, not only for industrial free trade but also energy cooperation. Therefore, based on the concerns of regional energy strategy during a more subtle universal energy situation, to deepen the extent of economic cooperation among the three countries would be very important. So the function of a tunnel would be the same as the Britain-France Channel Tunnel.*

**– Chen Shan, associate researcher of the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Chu Meng)**



## Mexican VW Workers Strike

Puebla, Mexico, August 18 (AP) – Workers at Mexico's sprawling Volkswagen plant rejected a 4.5 percent pay increase Wednesday and walked out, waving strike banners in front of the only factory that produces the New Beetle.

The strike crippled the car plant in the mountains of Puebla, 65 miles southeast of Mexico City.

The union was pushing for an 8.5 percent salary increase for the plant's 9,500 workers. Employees at the plant make an average of 291 pesos (\$25) a day, more than seven times the local minimum wage.

Talks resumed Wednesday afternoon, but union officials said an agreement would be difficult because the 4.5 percent pay increase was the company's final offer.

Union officials said employees voted against the agreement because they are still angry that their schedule and salary was cut back to four days a week last year. They hope that by rejecting the offer, they can persuade company officials to return to a full, five-day work schedule.

## Cable, Satellite, Net Election Bonanza

August 18 (USA Today) – Although TV and radio stations still attract the bulk of election ad and marketing dollars, cable and satellite companies will pass newspapers for the third-largest slice of this year's gigantic campaign spending pie, according to a new study.

Cable and satellite will collect 2.9% of the \$2.7 billion being spent by all sources on election-related media this year, up from 1.6% of \$1.2 billion in 2000, independent research company PQ Media reports. Newspapers' share will be virtually flat: 2.1% vs. 2.2% in 2000.

"Cable has become much stronger in reaching niche audiences and local audiences," says PQ Media President Patrick Quinn. "That's an important trend." The shift follows a multiyear effort by cable operators to buy and swap systems to dominate regions.

Broadcast TV continues to rule, with 56.1% of the political ad and marketing market, same as in 2000.

Another big winner is the Internet. It will see 0.9% of political spending, up from 0.1% in 2000. That beats billboards, which will drop to 0.7% from 1.1%.

## Bank of America to Lay Off 1,500

Boston, August 18 (AP) – Bank of America Corp. plans to lay off hundreds of tellers and other branch employees at Fleet banks on Wednesday as a result of its merger with FleetBoston Financial Corp., according to a published report.

The job cuts will affect nearly every community in which Boston-based Fleet operates, the Boston Globe reported in Wednesday's editions, citing interviews and documents it had obtained. One branch manager who spoke on condition of anonymity told the newspaper that about one worker per branch – or about 1,500 total – would likely be laid off.

The bank, which acquired Fleet in the spring, is converting Fleet's 1,500 branches to its own model, which uses fewer full-time staff members per branch.

Bank of America also plans to transfer some employees, and to reduce hours of some staff members.

## Yukos Sells Subsidiary to Pay Tax

Moscow, August 18 (AFP) - Yukos is in the process of selling a 56-percent stake in a Siberian natural gas company to the Anglo-Russian joint venture TNK-BP in a bid to pay off its crushing tax bill, Western oil sources and media reports have revealed.

The Russian newspaper Kommersant along with The Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times reported Wednesday that the sale of Rospan has been concluded and that Yukos collected US\$357 million (289 million euros) in the process.

A Western oil source said that the deal could be announced shortly but refused to confirm that a final agreement had been signed.

Yukos officials refused to comment on the reports, which were interpreted as a rare bit of good news by analysts.

Russian media and Western analysts reported that the justice ministry tried to stand in the way of the sale but was unable to do so because the deal was conducted through offshore companies based in Cyprus.

# UFJ and Mitsubishi Merge

August 12 (banknetindia.com) – Japan's second-biggest bank, Mitsubishi Tokyo Financial Group (MTFG) has clinched a deal to take over Japan's fourth-ranked bank UFJ Holdings Inc to form the world's biggest bank. The merged bank will have combined assets of 1.73 trillion US dollars. The deal will also displace City Group of the United States as the world's biggest banking group.

Under the terms of the deal unveiled in a joint statement, MTFG, the country's second-biggest bank, and fourth-ranked UFJ will form a holding company - Mitsubishi UFJ Holdings Inc. - to merge the two groups' holding companies, commercial and trust banks, and brokerages from October 1, 2005. MTFG would be the surviving company, with shares in the new firm to be listed in New York, London, Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya.

The two banks said their merger would enable them to realize well-balanced loan portfolios, as 53 percent of MTFG's loans are extended to big firms and overseas, while 64 percent of UFJ loans are made to individuals and small businesses.

MTFG is prepared to inject up to 700bn yen into UFJ to cover losses arising from its exposure to non-performing loans. It said the capital injection would be made in an initial tranche of 500bn yen before September 30, followed, if needed, by an additional 200bn yen.

But the country's third-biggest bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG), said it would continue with a rival bid for loss-making UFJ, whose market value is around \$23 billion.

## Local Report:

*The direct motivation for MTFG was to get UFJ out of a difficult predicament. A fiscal year report on UFJ Holdings in 2003 showed that the total negative profits had reached 408.8 billion yen. And the situation was worsening up to the second quarter this year.*

*This move has cut a new international financing pattern, because the newly founded Mitsubishi United Financial Holdings Corporation has taken the top position in the world.*

*There are other reasons for this merger. Japanese financing organizations have to struggle to promote their business in an increasingly competitive environment world wide; second, the accumulated non-performing loans caused by long-time economic risk urged them to improve cooperation and integrate advanced resources; third, domestic economic stagnancy has forced Japan to adjust industrial developing directions and achieve a new financing structure; fourth, the structural change that's come about has encouraged furious reform and consolidation among corporations and different industrial sectors.*

**– People's Daily, August 17 (Chu Meng)**



August 17, a couple kiss in front of the "Kiss of Peace" statue in Time Square, New York. That day, a group organized an event "Kiss for Peace". Photo by Zhao Peng

# Youth Unemployment at All-time High

Geneva, August 11 (ILO News) – Youth unemployment has skyrocketed worldwide over the past decade to some 88 million, according to a new study by the International Labor Office (ILO), reaching an all time high with young people aged 15 to 24 now representing nearly half the world's jobless.

"Global Employment Trends for Youth 2004", a new analysis prepared by the ILO's Employment Strategy Department, found that while youth represent 25 percent of the working age population between the ages of 15 and 64, they made up as much as 47 percent of the total 186 million people out of work worldwide in 2003.

But the problem goes far beyond the large number of young unemployed people: the report says that young people represent some 130 million of the world's 550 million working poor who work but are unable to lift them-

selves and their families above the equivalent US\$1 per day poverty line. These young people struggle to survive, often performing work under unsatisfactory conditions in the "informal" economy.

According to the report, halving the world youth unemployment rate would add at least US\$2.2 trillion to global GDP, equal to around 4 percent of the 2003 global GDP value.

## Analyst's Take:

*From the report we can see that a region's unemployment rate is in direct proportion with regional economic development standards. In developing regions which have the largest share of youth within the working age population, the unemployment rate is related to the rate of growth of the economy.*

*The youth unemployment rates in 2003 were highest in the Middle East*

*and North Africa, at 25.6 percent, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean on 16.6 percent, and South-East Asia at 16.4 percent. For example, East Asia, where economic growth registered a high rate; were the only places where youth unemployment showed a decline, from 15.4 percent in 1993 to 13.4 percent in 2003.*

*Besides economic factors, the different employment policies in different countries are also influence the figures. Therefore, in order to alleviate the problem, a series of targeted policies on youth unemployment is needed to enable young people to overcome their natural disadvantage against older, more experienced workers.*

**– Cao Yongfu, assistant researcher from the Institute of World Economy and Politics Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Science (Chu Meng)**

## Google in Cut-price IPO

New York/San Francisco, August 19 (Reuters) – Google Inc., the most popular Internet search engine, raised \$1.67 billion on Wednesday in its long-awaited IPO after slashing the price and size of an offer beset by missteps and poor market conditions.

Google sold 19.6 million shares at \$85 each, the bottom of a much reduced price range, making paper billionaires of its founders. Its shares, which will trade under the stock symbol GOOG, are expected to

debut on the Nasdaq yesterday.

The sale went ahead hours after Google slashed the size of its initial public offering nearly in half, splashing cold water on what had been touted as the hottest Internet IPO in years.

The IPO ranks as the fourth largest in the United States this year, but easily would have been the year's largest at the mid-point of its initial pricing range.

The young, Mountain View, California-based company had initially

expected to raise as much as \$3.5 billion by selling shares for between \$108 and \$135 each in a Dutch auction.

On Wednesday, Google cut the range to between \$85 and \$95 a share, and also cut the number of shares on offer to 19.6 million from 25.7 million.

The IPO represents 7.2 percent of the company's shares and values Google at \$23.1 billion, well below the \$38.7 billion market capitalization of rival Yahoo Inc.



# Zhongguancun Heads Underground

By Dong Nan

Trials began earlier this month of the "underground Zhongguancun" system, the country's first major multi-functional underground space development project, located beneath China's "Silicon Valley" in Haidian District.

The system is meant to manage above-ground roads as well as underground areas and wires and piping networks in order to

maximize efficiency, reduce traffic jams and open new subterranean business opportunities.

Huang Bo, spokesman for the Design Institute of Beijing Urban Construction Group, the designer of the project, told *Beijing Today* that the underground space was divided into three layers, each of which had different functions.

The first layer is a 1.5-kilometer road system for vehi-

cles, meaning that some surface traffic could be diverted underground to avoid congestion.

The second layer is for business use, such as parking garages and real estate developments.

The third layer is a special channel for wires and sewage and piping systems. Five parallel spaces separate conduits for gas, heat, electricity, water and telecom cables. The lay-

out offered useful convenience for future maintenance and expansion of the pipelines, Huang said.

The 51.44-hectare underground expanse is an average of 12 meters deep and 14 meters below ground at its lowest point. It stretches from Baiyi Lu in the east to Caihefang Lu in the west, and from the north Third Ring Road south to Handian-zhen Nanjie.

The zone includes 10 surface roads and 13 underground passageways, through which vehicles entering Zhongguancun from the west can directly reach buildings' parking lots. Subterranean entrances will also grant access to a future subway station.

Trial use had begun on the first and third layers, while the second was not yet operational, Huang said.

## Sure-shot Cop Saves Children from Classroom Kidnapper

By Wang Fang

Two children abducted from a classroom in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province on Tuesday were rescued after a policeman shot their captor and other officers rushed them to safety after a two-hour ordeal.

The wounded kidnapper was believed dead after the incident, but awoke on the way to the local funeral home and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he is still receiving treatment.

Police have not released the man's name or other information.

Around 6 pm that evening, a traffic policeman saw a boy standing outside a fifth-storey window sill at the Shijiazhuang Women and Children Activities Center and a man inside the room holding the back of the boy's shirt. The police officer immediately called his station and asked for a rescue air mattress to be brought to the scene in case something unexpected happened.

At nearly the same time, teachers at the center called 110 to report that an armed man had kidnapped two children.

Police arrived at the site within minutes and rushed to the door of the classroom in which the man was holding the children, hoping to talk him into calming down and giving himself up. Soon afterwards, local fire fighters arrived and set up a thick inflatable safety pad outside the classroom window.

The kidnapper quickly pulled the boy back into the room.

The man told the police that he was from Guizhou Province and demanded 2,500 yuan so he could visit relatives in Shandong Province. When the police tried to get him to release one child in exchange for the money, the man refused.

With negotiations going nowhere, the police called in special forces for help.

At 8 o'clock, the police prepared the 2,500 yuan demanded by the kidnapper, but he then changed his mind. He said he would need a gun and to keep hold of one child to guarantee his safety.

When the man was distracted, a policeman leaned in from the next-door window and shot the kidnapper twice. The man fell out the window onto a rescue air pad as a massive crowd that had gathered outside the scene applauded and cheered.

Police rushed into the classroom and found the children frightened but not physically harmed. They discovered two knives inside the room.



The kidnapper negotiates with police



A policeman ended the two-hour ordeal with two shots.



The kidnapper fell from the fifth floor window.



The kids were unharmed.



Mrs. Nicola Downer gets a lesson in paper cutting from a skilled, laid-off woman.

Photo by Li Shuzhuan

## Local Laid-off Women Benefit from AusAID Program

By Zhou Ying

Mrs. Nicola Downer, the wife of Australia's foreign minister, made a visit to the Women's Employment Service Center and Women's Legal Aid Center of the Beijing Women's Federation on Tuesday as part of an inspection of the achievements of Australia's AusAid project.

Through that project, aimed at supporting laid-off women in Beijing, more than 400,000 yuan has gone to the Beijing Women's Federation to hire consultants and teachers, rent conference rooms, arrange transportation to sites

and publish promotional materials since May 2003.

"We also can provide micro-financing to a few women to run their own businesses," Beth Delaney, first secretary for development cooperation of the Australian government, told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

Mrs. Downer, accompanied by Dr. Sally Borthwick, wife of the Australian ambassador to China, talked to women receiving training at the centers and took particular interest in some items the women had made with their own hands, such as a pair of shoes em-

broidered with little tigers.

"I am happy to see that they have valuable skills, however, I think the next stop for them is to find the related market, to sell their products," Mrs. Borthwick said.

Federation Chairwoman Rong Hua said her organization had arranged skills training for 1,000 unemployed women, 75 percent of whom went on to find jobs. The project has also supported the Women's Legal Aid Center to offer free consultation with poor women in order to improve their understanding of China's marriage and family laws.

## Developer Scam Could Cost Dozens Their Homes

By Zhou Ying

Dreams of having their own homes turned sour for 35 residents of the Xindeyuan community in Xuanwu District when they discovered earlier this month that the titles to their apartments were already registered in the names of other people.

Mr. Zhang, one of the 35 residents, said he had discovered the apartments were previously purchased under the names of employees of Xindeyuan's developer, Xinde Yongli Real Estate Development Company, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported Saturday.

A source from that company told Zhang that the company's intention was to bring in some badly needed money to cover its operational costs until slow sales of the apartments starting generating profits, *Beijing Youth Daily* said. The developer took in 2.4 million yuan in mortgage loans from local banks after putting up only 20 percent of the 35 apartments'

total value in downpayments.

The company also pressed customers to purchase the apartments in one-time payments, Zhang said.

"We cannot register the apartments, since they were already registered before we bought them," he was quoted as saying.

"So, banks have not provided loans to us. That means that the developer could only squeeze money from us from our initial payments, so they pushed us to pay as much up front as possible."

The *Beijing Youth Daily* report cited experts as stating the real estate company was legally obligated to have settled its debts before putting the apartments up for public sale.

"In this case, because the company has defaulted on its mortgage loan payments, the loaning banks are entitled to repossess the houses, meaning these 35 residents stand to lose both their money and their homes," an unidentified expert said

in the report.

The newspaper said the company had since been transferred to a new owner, He Yuying, who claimed she had no knowledge of the problem until she assumed control of the company. "I will collect all the needed evidence to settle accounts with the company's former owners," she said.

The whereabouts of the developer's former owners were not known, *Beijing Youth Daily* said.

Some duped residents have already filed a suit against the company with the Xuanwu District People's Court to demand compensation. Qin Bing, a lawyer representing one angry homebuyer, told *Beijing Youth Daily* he was not optimistic about the plaintiffs' chances, because the banks did have the right to repossess the homes if they did not receive scheduled loan payments.

Court and local government sources have not disclosed any further details regarding the case.

## New Evidence of Nanjing Massacre Found

By Dong Nan

Volunteers from four universities in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, announced on Monday they had found new evidence that the Nanjing Massacre was not confined to the city, but also took place in outlying areas.

The Nanjing Massacre occurred in December 1937, during the Japanese invasion of China. Japanese soldiers are believed to have slaughtered 300,000 Chinese civilians in Nanjing, the national capital at the time.

The massacre began with prisoners of war and suspected soldiers, but then troops extended the killing to civilians, including women, children and the elderly.

Starting in late June, a group of around 80 volunteers from Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing University, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Hehai University headed out to the city's suburbs to interview survivors of the massacre and look for other evidence. They visited 40 villages, talked to over 1,000 people and collected 760 testimonies from witnesses during the 20-day investigation.

"For a long time, Nanjing Massacre research concentrated on written documents and photos provided by Europeans and Americans who were in the city at that time, without paying attention to field work in the suburbs of Nanjing," Zhang Lianhong, a professor at the Nanjing Massacre Research Center of Nanjing Normal University told *Beijing Today*.

In Baguazhou, a small island in the Yangtze River just outside Nanjing, dozens of elderly people who witnessed the events reported Japanese soldiers executed thousands of Chinese prisoners of war.

"In January 1938, I went to Dawozi, Laohushan, where Japanese soldiers killed thousands of Chinese soldiers. I saw heads of bodies tied together by iron wires and there were lots of heads hanging from trees," Guo Heyi, 79, was quoted as saying in the volunteers' report.

The volunteer investigators also managed to get the names of more than 20 victims. Identifying actual victims was very difficult, Zhang said, and less than 7,000 of the approximately 300,000 people who died have been named.

One of the central goals in Nanjing Massacre research is to put together irrefutable proof that the killing took place, as some hard-line right-wingers in Japan continue to deny the massacre ever happened.

## Rainy Summer Puts Cloud over Carnival

By Jiang Lin

Beijing has proven to be no funhouse for the World Carnival, which had run up 20 million yuan in debts as of last Saturday despite drawing big crowds this summer.

After considering staying a few extra days in the capital to try to get back in the black, carnival organizers decided last week to stick with their original schedule and move the show to Wuhan, Hubei Province on August 27.

Zhang Shuhua from the public relations office of the carnival's organizer confirmed the carnival had failed to earn profits in its local run, which began in July, but remained optimistic.

"If the weather in Beijing is good during our last week, we should be able to bring in 400,000 visitors and make both ends meet," Zhang said.

The traveling carnival has earned around 100 million yuan in gross income compared to roughly 120 million yuan in costs.

Reasons for the losses include a shorter stint in Beijing than last year's 72-day stretch in Shanghai, hiring more employees and buying more toy prizes than the 2003 event and the unusually rainy summer, Zhang said.

## Cell-phone Photo Prompts Confession in Education Scam Case

By Chen Si

A secretly snapped cell-phone photo pushed a man on trial for posing as a Ministry of Education employee to cheat another man of money into confessing on Monday.

The Haidian District People's Court accepted the photo as evidence at the hearing, the first time such a photo has been formally recognized by a Chinese court, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported Tuesday.

Plaintiff Liu Hao (pseudonym) and his father have charged Wu Mingming with using a false identity as secretary to China's minister of education

to cheat them of 100,000 yuan after promising to help Liu get into a prestigious university.

At Monday's hearing, the public prosecutor presented a printed copy of a small photo taken by Liu's father with his cell phone as he handed the 100,000 yuan in cash to Wu. The elder Liu testified that at the time of the transaction, Wu said he could not offer a contract or a receipt for the payment, which made him suspicious and prompted him to snap a surreptitious shot with his phone under the guise of making a call.

Wu later acknowledged that

he was the man in the photo before confessing guilt to almost all the charges.

In July 2003, Liu, a regional public security bureau official, was introduced to Wu as the minister's secretary and a person who could help his son get into a top university.

Wu told Liu that two spots were still open at Zhejiang University and that his son could enroll by filling out entrance forms and making a payment of 100,000 yuan, according to the plaintiff's testimony.

Later, Wu presented Liu with an admission notice to a private university in Wuhan, one

far less reputable than Zhejiang University. The confused father looked into the matter and found the private university's only entry requirement was payment of 15,000 yuan in yearly tuition.

Liu demanded Wu return his 100,000 yuan since he failed to produce what he had promised, but Wu only returned 4,000 yuan.

Wu confessed to the court that he took the 100,000 yuan, which he then split with a friend, surnamed Deng, to help "handle matters." But he denied ever having posed as the secretary of the minister of education, and laid blame on Deng,

whom Wu claimed once said he could help get students into universities.

The court said Thursday that it would announce its official verdict next week.

Admission of the cell phone photo as evidence has raised eyebrows, as there are doubts about the legality of the court's decision.

Qu Xinjiu, a professor at the China University of Political Science and Law, told *Beijing Today* Wednesday that such evidence obtained in secret could be used in the court's considerations, but could not be considered legal evidence, he said.





High-voltage wire towers beside Baiwanjiayuan residential community

By Chu Meng

An angry debate has broken out over construction of a high-voltage power line running from the Summer Palace northward and running through residential communities. The Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau (BEPB) held a public hearing on the matter last Friday and concluded that it was an illegal project as it had not been approved by an environmental evaluation by the BEPB before being granted a license by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning. The BEPB promised to publish a follow-up report within two-month's time.

The 220 kilovolt power-line is part of the northwest Beijing electrical network project begun in February 2004 by the Beijing Electric Power Corporation. It was built starting from the northern and western walls of the Summer Palace, and strung above the grassland of residential communities.

Controversy immediately broke out, based on concerns about the impact on scenic spots and the cultural heritage of the Summer Palace. As the media became interested, the project drew wide attention from society and many government departments such as the BEPB, the Beijing Cultural Relics Bureau and the Beijing Development and Reform Committee (BDRP). The BDRP planned to carry out an environmental evaluation survey inside the park with a weather balloon to see whether or how much damage the power-lines would do to the Summer Palace. However, it was cancelled because of the cloudy weather last week.

Whether the high-voltage wires are really too close to the historical park, whether they could harm nearby residents and whether it violates relevant laws and regulations have not yet been clearly decided. Meanwhile, debate rages.

**Zou Ying, director of the administration and information office of the Summer Palace**

Frankly, those electric towers don't spoil our scenery and cultural relics as seriously as some of the media have reported. Only small parts of the tops of those towers can be seen when visitors stand inside the park. And in terms of strong electromagnetic radiation from the 220-kilovolt power-lines, we have to wait for an objective report from the weather balloon survey before we can say.

I cannot simply say it is damaging or not, as that would be irresponsible. Everybody should be aware that the whole matter is a thoroughly scientific one; therefore any conclusions should be based on scientific research. Now we are waiting for the bureau's survey and their words are reliable. Most importantly, I have to correct a mistake. Even if the power-lines stay beside the Summer Palace, by no means will that cause its removal from the

# Power-line Sparks Outrage



Slogans by Beijing Electric Power Corporation (left), and people from Baiwanjiayuan residential community hanging on the towers

Photos by Chu Meng



World Cultural Heritage List. Only when something is thoroughly damaged by a natural disaster such as an earthquake would that happen.

And the BDRP has always provided strong backup to the park's environmental protection and surrounding area's construction and regulation work since the park was added to the World Cultural Heritage List in 1998. As early as 1999, the committee gave us 6 billion yuan to do this work. After all, the Summer Palace is the largest and most complete imperial garden in China.

**Wu Zhenping, representative from Baiwangjiayuan Residential Community**

Electromagnetic radiation from the power lines will be extremely harmful for us. Therefore we strongly ask government bodies to reconstruct the towers and change them into underground power lines. Then there would be no physical damage at all.

Several towers were built in February just inside the Baiwangjiayuan community and high-voltage wires are strung above residential buildings. A piece of land to the west of our community was set aside as a grassland, a relaxing place for all residents, when we came to live here in August 2003, but now a line of iron towers are preventing people from going there. And just five meters away is our kindergarten. Have they ever thought about the health of our children?

We will live here for decades, so we cannot permit this kind of danger existing next to us. Scientific re-

search shows that living within 300 meters of 220 kilovolt wires increases the risk of leukemia, abortion and mental harm. It is obviously dangerous for the number 309 hospital located just opposite our community, because electromagnetic radiation can significantly influence medical equipment, as well as being very bad for the patients who have electronic appliances inside their bodies, such as pacemakers. It is an illegal project that did not have essential environmental testing before construction began.

**Tian Lu, representative of the Beijing Electric Power Corporation**

This project is part of the northwest Beijing electric power network, which will magnificently enhance northern and western Beijing's electricity supply and will also support the electricity supply for the Olympic village construction in the next few years. The project was audited and approved by the State Grid Corporation of China before it began. And it is actually a reconstruction of a power-line based on an old 35 kilovolt line, which has been used for more than ten years. Therefore, we need no more tests of legality.

We took into account concerns about environmental protection factors, because use of the old power-line takes less land and has less influence on the surroundings. In our environmental report to the State Grid Corporation of China, we cited the criteria of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA). It is the only standard we could refer

to up to now, because China has no such regulations itself.

**Wang Qing, chief of the Beijing Development and Reform Committee Information Office**

Whether it is harmful to the Summer Palace and surrounding communities cannot be said for sure yet. All kinds of scientific surveys and tests are on the way including the one using a weather balloon.

Our committee is more like a consulting organ, it is not in charge of direct administration. Therefore, regarding the high-voltage power lines, all we can do is urge the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau and the Beijing Cultural Relics Bureau and other government departments to fulfill their responsibilities in this matter.

**Zhou Xiaofan, a source from the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau**

The approval granted to the corporation by the State Grid Corporation of China is not valid. According to the "Law of Environmental Impact Evaluation" any company should acquire an official report of an environmental evaluation test from our bureau before seeking approval from the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning. But the electric company didn't.

And the Beijing Electric Power Corporation is actually a subordinate body of the State Grid Corporation of China. Therefore the approval they were granted earlier was not valid.

## Boys in the Girls' Room

By Zhou Ying

Have you ever imagined the embarrassment of walking into the wrong toilet? Sun Zhongxin, a professor of sociology at Taiwan National University, suggested recently that allowing girls and boys to live together, including sharing the same public toilets, would be the ideal way to achieve equality for men and women.

Sun has assigned a project for his students to design toilets without gender signs. The students will select the best plan next semester.

In his opinion, there should be no more men's urinals, only toilet seats, in the ideal design. He said that without the urinals, there would be equal opportunity for boys and girls to relieve themselves, because no longer would there be long queues outside the female toilets. In addition, he believed that such toilets could restrain crimes, such as perverts spying on women. "The rate of violation of girls could decrease by 50 percent," he said.

However, his suggestions have not met with approval from his colleagues. Both Shu Te University and National Kaohsiung First University of Science and Technology (two Taiwan Universities) argued that such toilets would provide more opportunities for criminals, and would diminish women's sense of safety.

The idea has aroused heated discussion among students in Taiwan and the rest of China, with many different ideas being expressed. Some insist that men and women sharing the same toilet would be a backwards step. However, some feel it is not such a big deal, and might be really convenient.

**Michelle, a male college student in Beijing**

Nowadays, public bathrooms have their own kind of special culture. As we know, many managers from restaurants and bars, in order to attract consumers, spare no expense in fitting up their washrooms.

I once visited a teashop in Shanghai. To my surprise, the washroom there was called Tingyu Xuan (Room where you can hear rain), and it was like a study. I did not realize that it was a toilet at first. I think special toilets like that are quite attractive.

Speaking of toilets for both men and women, I think it could at least save space. However, I may feel uncomfortable if I use the same public toilet with women.

**Ms. Li, an official from Beijing Municipal Administration Commission**

I feel uncomfortable when I stand in line to wait for my turn to use the toilet when the one next door for men is quite empty. But I could not accept the idea of sharing the same toilet with men.

Experts estimate that technically there should be 30 percent more latrines in female toilets than in male toilets. However the fact is that we have the same number of latrines in female and male toilets. This is the reason why women have to stand in line to wait for the toilet. I hope all the new-built toilets in Beijing from now on will be designed according to the experts' suggestions.

**Zhou Jun, a technician from North China Grid Company**

I do not think this kind of thing can be classified as a matter of equality between men and women. Can we regard it as a symbol of equality between men and women, just because they can share the same toilet? It really makes a fuss over a trifle.

However, I personally agree with the professor's suggestion, because those kinds of toilets are quite convenient. You would not have to work out which one is for females and which is for males. I really find it inconvenient when some signs are marked inside the door.

However, I just want to remind them that they should use first-class bolts.

**Huang Chao, Engineer in China Beijing Quanjude Group Company**

I have been to many places where there is only one toilet, owing to the lack of space, such as bars and tiny restaurants. But I think if space is available, it is better to separate the two toilets.

I cannot agree that building only one toilet is a sensible way to save space. You need to set up partition walls in a single toilet. I think this is a waste of materials.

In addition, if there are some flaws in the design, this kind of toilet could make it easier for criminals to commit crimes. For some people, they may not intend to commit a crime at first; they might just be tempted by the situation.

**Li Yinhe, a professor of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences**

I agree that girls and boys should get used to living together gradually. Some insist that if men and women share the same toilet, it may increase the crime rate. I just want to ask if somebody can guarantee that women will not be offended.

One advantage of shared toilets is that they could provide special care for a special group of people in our society. In our society, six to ten percent of people have very uncertain ideas about their gender, both physically and mentally.

In history, transsexual people have held many movements, and their aim was to cancel the delineations of male and female, such as in toilets, certificates, and driving licenses. They hoped to abolish the gender demarcation.

Nowadays, as the number of transsexual people increases, they hold that there is no relevant regulation to maintain their rights. As society develops, we find that more and more people do not have distinct sexual characteristics in many aspects, such as hair style, and ornaments.



By Chen Si

The incredible number of regional dialects in China can sometimes seem a little irritating, particularly for fluent Mandarin speakers who go on holiday only to find they can't understand a word the locals are saying. Beijing people often talk about how "Shanghainese" is virtually a different language. So it may come as something of a relief to hear that the spreading Mandarinization of China is proceeding apace. However, there is a downside. Much of China's linguistic culture is contained in its dialects, such as humorous tales which lose their impact when told in Mandarin. If, or rather when, these dialects fade away, much will have been lost. *China News Weekly* warned of this sad trend on August 12.

After China was unified by Qin Shihuang, the first emperor, in 221 BC, there were considered to be eight principal dialects in the different regions, such as north dialect (spoken in Beijing) and Wu dialect (spoken mainly in the southeast, such as Shanghai). Qin unified Chinese characters, but sharp differences among spoken dialects could not be ironed out. A dialect can cover several administrative divisions or regions, or it can vary from one village to the next.

As the local dialect is the first language a person learns, people can often express their feelings more freely and exactly than in the central language of the country they later learn at school. Dialects have lots of special phrases that do not translate properly into Mandarin, often expressing people's most natural thoughts. The dialects themselves also reflect unique local cultures, and the character of the people.

Liu Bannong, a famous Chinese writer, once said, "If some literary works were written in dialect, what vigor they would have! Dialect has the special lingering charm of local regions. It is the truest living language. Without dialect, our culture cannot be colorful."

However, the inability to understand someone on the other end of a telephone somewhere else in the country causes predictable difficulties. So a special push to make everyone speak Mandarin began in 1955, and it appears to be working. The use of dialect has weakened progressively since then. Dialect is increasingly regarded as rustic and exclusive from mainstream culture, especially in urban districts.

#### Urbanization predicament of the dialect

Han Peiling, from the Chinese Language Department of Beijing University, went to Xinzhuang Town, Changshu, Jiangsu province to conduct an investigation



In Shanghai, over ten million people still speak Shanghai dialect, but its range of uses is getting narrower and narrower.

## Save the Dialects!

of Xinzhuang dialect this July. Han started with a local woman named Tang Huizhen. Tang, 50, had not had much education and had never been outside her village, so the dialect she spoke was relatively pure. Han wrote down her pronunciation and marked international phonetic symbols next to it. Han said, "If this dialect dies out some day, we can still remember it according to these phonetic symbols." Han said she hoped to protect dialect in this way. However, she admitted this was a limited method, and that the fading of dialect was probably irresistible.

"China is too big, and its dialects are too complicated," said Wu Yonghuan, associate professor from Renmin University. "Nanjing and Suzhou are two neighboring cities in Jiangsu province, but people there speak different dialects. Nanjingers speak in Jianghuai dialect while Suzhou people speak in Wu dialect."

According to statistics from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, there are 120 dialects in China that are declining fast, half of which are close to disappearing altogether. For example, there are only 100 people who can understand the Man dialect of Liaoning province, and less than 1,000 who speak the Tataer dialect in Xinjiang province.

Dialect is not only endangered

in towns and villages, but also in cities. Moreover, the bigger the city, the greater the pressure to conform to the main linguistic standard. In Shanghai, over ten million people still speak Shanghai dialect, but its range of uses is getting narrower and narrower. Information in written form or in the media must now be expressed in Mandarin. Only in narrow areas of daily life such as eating and sleeping can Shanghai dialect be used. Qian Nairong, a professor from Shanghai University, counted 74 words from Shanghai dialect that once were commonly used by university students but that they now no longer use. It's the same in many other regions.

Compared with dialects, Mandarin is more and more used by the younger generations. Many Shanghai pupils cannot speak Shanghai dialect. Instead they focus on learning Mandarin and English. In Jinhua, a city in Zhejiang Province, among children from six to 14 years old, almost all can speak Mandarin, but 52% cannot speak Jinhua dialect at all, and only 23% can communicate well in the dialect. Some parents there say there's not much point in learning the dialect as English is much more useful.

Many people are turning from dialect as they think it is rustic. Chen Li, from Sanming, a city of Fujian, can understand the dia-

lect of her hometown but is unwilling to speak it, as she thinks it sounds unpleasant. Wu Yuting, a middle school student from Xi'an, can speak Xi'an dialect well. But she says she speaks Mandarin 80% of the time, and only uses dialect when talking with her family. "Sometimes it is not so easy to transfer to dialect when you have been speaking Mandarin most of the time," Wu smiled.

"Dialect is becoming regarded as more and more strange and unusual," said Jing Wendong, associate professor of the Chinese Department of the Central University for Nationalities. "Everything is assimilated in this era. It's not at all easy for us to enter into the world of dialect any more. The death of the dialect and the disappearance of the differences mean that lively regional cultures are assimilated by the same kind of language symbols and symbols on the computer keyboard," Jing sighed. "What can we do? The birth, development and withering away of the dialect, is part of competition between languages. In this era of globalization, we have to communicate by a kind of common language."

#### Social development caused this?

In an investigation of youth culture performed by China Youth Research Center last year, among

the top ten words used, 50% were from dialects from Guangdong or Hong Kong, indicating the strong influence of Cantonese on Chinese vocabulary, compared with the shrinking dialects in other parts of China.

There is another interesting phenomenon that more and more flash jokes on the Internet or comic dialogues on the stage use northeast dialect. Even some famous actor's lines in movies are transferred into northeast dialect.

Zhou Lei, chief of the language institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, says this phenomenon proves that dialect is more vivid, humorous and interesting than Mandarin. But it cannot account for the prosperity of dialect. It is welcomed just because it is fresh to people.

The economy is the critical factor causing this phenomenon. South China is more developed than much of the rest of China, and more Cantonese comes into ordinary people's lives through business or TV programs. If people want to develop themselves, they are often willing to learn from southerners, whether through learning their methods of solving problems or their culture, and of course they learn Cantonese in the process. Meanwhile, they do not wish to learn from northeast dialect though it can make them laugh, because the northeast is not so economically developed. However, says Professor Zhou, it would be a shame to allow a vivid element of Chinese culture to disappear just because it hails from a less economically dynamic area.

#### Futile rescue efforts?

"If we do not pay attention to this serious situation and do not take any action, it'll take only a few years for dialects to become completely extinct," Zhou said. "What we need to do most is to make a complete investigation of the dialects that are most endangered, and rescue as much information as possible. However, language has its own laws of development. All we can do is delay its decline. We have no other method."

Wu Yonghuan, associate professor from Renmin University, thinks dialect and Mandarin are equal and we should let them develop together. "Some people think dialect is rustic, but that's what makes it special. The appeal of dialect is that it is lively, natural and vivid." Wu says one way to keep dialect alive is to allow some space for it in the media, in entertainment and TV programs. "Now in Hong Kong, dialect is used in newspapers, including some special characters and expressions. I think it is a good way to keep dialect alive, and we can learn from that. But remember, Mandarin can be the only common language in China."

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By Dong Nan

Panic has spread among families of more than 2,000 primary and middle school students in Hunan Province who fear a botched bcg inoculation may be causing tuberculosis (TB). The local authorities arranged free X-ray examinations from August 13 to check whether the children were infected.

It all began last year, after students in Gaoping, Longhui Town received shots of the bcg vaccine which can help prevent TB. Since then, however, many of the inoculated students began to show symptoms of the deadly disease, including skin rashes around the place where they received the shot. A number have been diagnosed with TB.

Though local sanitation departments pleaded for calm and said the vast majority of the students were fine, many parents are sceptical about what they're being told and are taking their children outside the province for check-ups.

**Did the vaccine cause the disease?**

From 2001 to 2002, Longhui Epidemic Prevention Station inoculated more than 2,000 students from primary schools in 15 local villages and Houtian Middle School in Gaoping, Longhui Town with the bcg vaccine. The two people who administered the shots, Yang Wangcai and Zhou Yinghua, were temporary workers hired by Gaoping Sanitary Station.

In January 2003, Yuan Yuan, an eight-year-old student of Xuejie Primary School in Sanxing Village, found there were scars and blotches on his left arm where he had received the shot, and the lymph nodes on his neck were inflamed. Later he was diagnosed with TB by a hospital in Shaoyang, Hunan Province.

# Tuberculosis Scare Spreads in Hunan

## Did botched vaccination cause outbreak?



Eight children went to Guangzhou to have a physical examination.

Photos by Photocomé

In October 2003, an investigation group from Longhui town concluded that Yuan Yuan's disease was the consequence of "over-deep insertion of the needle during the inoculation," and

told the station to pay 3,500 yuan in compensation. As the news spread in Gaoping, many parents and students started worrying there was something wrong with the vaccine. Last December,

the sanitation bureau of Longhui Town conducted checks on 519 students who had had the vaccine and claimed that except Yuan, there were no more possible cases of TB.



Children show their arms where they received the shots.

The bureau said that though the scars on the arms of 11 students were a little larger than normal, it might just be the mistake of the two people who took charge of the shots. They said the scars were not a sign of TB and were not serious. After this, most parents felt reassured.

Soon, however, more students were diagnosed with TB.

Last December, 15-year-old Wang Haiyan, a grade three student of Houtian Middle School, who lived in Huixiao Village, Longhui Town, had a high fever and felt weak. In March, her disease was confirmed as TB by the Tuberculosis Hospital of Hunan, an authoritative hospital in Changsha, capital of the province. Later her two brothers, who are 12 and 14 years old, were also diagnosed with the disease. They had all received the vaccine in 2002.

"Haiyan used to be an optimistic girl, but she's become taciturn since hearing the bad news," said Yuan Bihua, Wang Haiyan's mother to *News Express*, a Guangzhou based newspaper. "Our family used to lead a happy life, but after the three children became sick, everything has been destroyed. Sometimes I think it would be better for the parents to have this disease than to let the children suffer."

Wang Haiyan used to be one of the best students in her class. Now she finds she cannot concentrate on her studying anymore. "I often think that since I'm going to die anyway, what is the use in studying hard now?" she told *News Express*.

Yuan Longping in Dashi Village, Yuan Li in Fengxing village and many other local children have also been diagnosed with the disease.

**Worried parents**

Panic spread among the parents once again. Many of them took their children outside Hunan to see doctors. "It all began with Yuan Yuan, Yuan Xudong's grandson who lived in Sanxing Village last year," Yang Qinxing, who lived in Houtian, Longhui Town, told *News Express*.

Yang had witnessed the progress of Yuan Yuan's disease. "At the very beginning, he felt itching on his left arm where he was inoculated. Later his skin became red and scarred, and puss came out. He looked very sick."

Ms. Yuan from Houtian was also scared by the story of Wang Heping's daughter, who lived in the same village as her. "I knew something was wrong with the girl's lungs last year after the inoculation. Doctors said that the texture of her lung had become thicker, and the bones in her left arm had been eroded. Whether it is TB has not been confirmed yet, but her family have already spent more than 10,000 yuan on treatment for her."

"Children often complained of feeling dizzy, sweating more than usual and feeling weak," said Yang Qinxing.

Both Yang Qinxing and Ms. Yuan took their children to Guangzhou on August 11 to have physical examinations, together with the families of five other children.

"My two daughters both had the vaccine. Though there is nothing wrong with them so far, I cannot take anything for granted," said Yuan.

According to Yang and Yuan, many parents in Gaoping have taken their children to other provinces for physical examinations. "I know my friend, 10-year-old Zeng Liang, has been taken

to Yunnan for a physical examination by his father," said Yang Jing, a boy living in Pengxing Village, Gaoping to *News Express*. "I saw many red scars on his arm. They were really awfully red. And he told me that they were unbearably itchy."

"Now people are in a state of severe panic here," said Yuan Xinhua, villager of Datian Village, Gaoping. "No one knows what will happen. Most parents think that it would be better not to have a physical examination in local hospitals and sanitary stations since they think they are not reliable."

On July 18, 2004, 29 families including Yuan Yuan, Yuang Longping and Wang Haiyan's, sent a letter to Longhui Town government to state the situation and seek help. The government organized an investigation group and arranged the free X-rays for the 2,000 students.

**Denials from officials**

According to *News Express*, more than 600 students went to Gaoping Sanitation Station last Sunday to take the X-ray examination. Since there was only one X-ray machine, many parents and students kept waiting from 6 am to 6 pm but still had to wait for the next day.

By this Wednesday, only 1,000 students had taken the examination, and only one TB patient was found. However, according to *News Express*, most parents doubted that result, and many said they would go to Beijing for a more convincing examination.

According to regulations of the Ministry of Public Health of China, a bcg shot must not be injected too deep, or problems such as skin rashes and scars can occur. However, Yang Jian, head of Longhui Epidemic Prevention Station, told *News Express* that he did not think the bcg inoculation had anything to do with the students who had TB.

"We cannot say it was the inoculation that caused the disease," he said. "The bcg vaccine is not 100 percent effective in preventing TB."

Yang said that 1,000 students have been examined this year, and 20 of them had skin complaints. He said that was because of the two local workers applying too much pressure when giving the injection.

He also said there might be other reasons behind the 21 children suffering from lung disease. "It might be aroused by cold or fever; we cannot say for sure that they have TB," he said.

Yang said that two examination groups from Longhui town and Shaoyang city had sent out doctors to keep a keen eye on the children who had symptoms such as coughing and spitting for more than three weeks. "If they are diagnosed with TB, we will treat them for free," he promised. However, he kept emphasizing that there was no relation between TB and the inoculation.

Zhou, president of Longhui Sanitary Bureau, promised again to *News Express* that if there were any TB sufferers, local hospitals would treat them for free. However, he also did not think the disease was aroused by the inoculation. "Those vaccines are from our superior hospitals. I do not think there was any problem with them."

On Wednesday, Jian Xuewu, chief of the disease prevention department of Hunan Sanitary Bureau, confirmed to *News Express* that the vaccine could not have caused tuberculosis.

# A Cure for Cancer-Blighted Village?

By Wang Fang

Incidents of cancer and other diseases in Huangmengying Village in Shenqiu County, Henan Province have risen sharply in the last ten years and an investigation aired on CCTV last week found it's no coincidence. The village is located on the banks of the Shaying River, the largest branch of the notoriously polluted Huaihe River, and there's overwhelming evidence that the dirty water is the main cause for the rising disease and death rate in the village. Despite the local poverty, there's a desperate need for funds to be found to build hugely expensive deep-water wells to avoid the polluted surface water.

**Grim statistics**

Huangmengying Village is in one of the poorest counties in Henan. It has 2471 residents and the average annual income, mainly from the local cash crops of wheat and maize, is just 800 yuan.

According to statistics collected by the villagers' committee, 204 people died between 1990 and 2004, a rise in the death rate from 5 to 8.2%. Among the dead, 105 succumbed to cancer.

Wang Linsheng, Secretary of the local Party Committee, grew up in the village and he has been at his post for more than 10 years. He said that there were more than 20 households in the village with two or more cancer patients. Zhang Guizhi died of esophagus cancer in 2001 when she was only 55. Her son said that before she died, she was barely able to eat or drink. 57-year-old Xiao Junhai was diagnosed with colorectal cancer two months ago and his relatives were trying to hide the truth from him. It's another blow as he's been fighting different forms of cancer for years. He says he suffers from pain in his belly in the morning and at night. He caught gastric cancer four years ago and borrowed loans to receive treatment. Six months later, the cancer moved to his enteric system. His daughter, Xiao Li, returned home from Zhejiang to look after him and said she

was thinking of going out to earn more money to pay for her father's continuing treatment. However, she's worried that he might pass away while she's away working.

Besides cancer, the disability rate in Huangmengying Village is also high, with 41 disabled villagers. Six-year-old Wang Huimei has congenital heart disease and her doctor said it did not appear to have been inherited. She cannot jump or run like her friends; otherwise, she feels dizzy and short of breath. Unfortunately, her family is not able to pay for treatment. Wang Shiwen, the doctor in Huangmengying village clinic, said locals suffered from other diseases such as cerebrovascular sclerosis and congenital disabilities.

**It's in the water**

Doctors say that 80% of cancer cases occur in otherwise healthy people, and that it's usually caused by environmental factors such as food, air and water.

Wang Shiwen said that from 1980 the village started to eat wheat-based foods as a staple and that there are no paper or pesticide factories near the village, which discharge waste air. So the only possibility for the plague of cancer is the drinking water in the village.

There are 16 ponds in the village which are connected by ditches extending in all directions. The cancer patients in the village mainly live near these ponds and ditches and many people living just slightly further away suffer from inflammatory bowel diseases.

Fuyang Environmental Supervision Station picked six samples of water from the Shaying River - the only water supply for the village - from the pond, the main ditch, and three pump wells. The three wells are 8 meters, 10 meters and 30 meters deep. The testing results showed that the amount of chemical oxygen demand (COD) and other polluted substances from the pond and the ditch were below even the lowest Class V standard in the State Environmental Quality Standards for Surface Water. The test result of the three wells

showed that the water did not comply with the State Drinking Water Quality and Hygiene Standard. The shallower the well is, the worse the water is. The water contains too much nitrate nitrogen and manganese which can fatally affect people's health. For example, in the water from the 8-meter well, the amount of nitrate nitrogen and manganese is 3 times and 6 times that of the safe levels prescribed by the state standards.

**Explanation from the experts**

Professor Pan Xiaochun from Peking University Health Center has been carrying out research on the relationship between water pollution and human health for years. He said that the research reports in this field propose that excessive absorption of nitrate nitrogen in water or food can induce inflammatory bowel diseases and cancer of the esophagus and liver. Moreover, the amount of manganese in the water is probably the main reason why there are so many disabled people in Huangmengying Village, Pan said: "International research proves that manganese affects neural systems in the brain. Excessive amounts of manganese can harm the brain and result in corticocerebral necrosis."

**The pollution source**

"Our village used to be known as a healthy place. In the summer months, people from outside would come to the ponds to swim or wash up. However, after 1990, no one dared to swim in the pond. People who have contact with the water catch allergies," said Wang Linsheng.

Since the end of the 1980s, industrial and residential waste water from places on the upper reaches of the river, such as Zhengzhou, Kaifeng, Xiangcheng, Luohe, Xuchang and Zhoukou, has swept downstream with devastating effect.

Liu Jiaqiang, the director of Shenqiu County Environmental Protection Bureau, has witnessed how the Shaying River had become more polluted over the past 10 years.

He says it comes mainly from the brewery, chemical and paper

industries in the upper reaches. "The Shaying River was badly polluted from 1997-2000. The amount of COD was between 270-280 mg per liter. People did not dare to come close to the river because of the smell."

He said Huangmengying Village was by no means the only case of its kind in Shenqiu County; 21 other villages and towns in the county have serious problems with pollution. Liu says in these places, only water from 50 meters beneath the surface is safe to drink.

**The hope and the worry**

The best way to solve the problem of drinking water is to dig deep wells down to 200 meters. At present, there are only 8 deep wells in Shenqiu County and the water can only provide for people in the county town. Building a deep well, along with the necessary facilities to provide clear drinking water for one million people, costs at least 30-40 million yuan. The cost for a deep well to provide for Huangmengying Village is around 60,000 yuan, which is an enormous figure for the villagers.

Facing the increasing death rate in the village, Wang Linsheng sighed. "We don't have any ideas and we are used to cancer as a fact of living here."

The efforts over the past 10 years to clean up the Huaihe River have forced a number of pollution-discharging factories to close up. However, some factories which turn in more taxes but discharge waste water in the upper reaches of the Shaying River are still in use, for example, the Lotus Gourmet Powder Group in Xiangcheng, the Silver Pigeon Paper Factory in Luohe and the Dejie Leather Factory in Zhoukou. And with more and more residential waste water clogging the channels, sorting out the pollution in the Shaying River will not be achieved in a short time.

For residents of Huangmengying Village, however, help may be at hand. Just a few days ago, the governments of Zhoukou City and Shenqiu County promised to invest 90,000 yuan in building a deep well to provide a source of clean water.

(Source: CCTV)





An early success for Friends of Nature was protecting the jinsi hou, a rare monkey species in Guizhou.

Photos by Photocome

By Sheng Mingming

It's easy to miss Liang Congjie in a crowd. There's nothing immediately striking about the soft-spoken 72-year-old history professor with wire-framed glasses and silver-streaked hair. But Liang's activism speaks for itself: he is a leader in the fight to preserve China's environment.

While his counterparts in the West were chaining themselves to trees and challenging whale boats in rubber dinghies, Liang has pursued a more cautious and pragmatic approach, trying to educate China's public and working with the state-run media.

## A Friend of Nature

Looking like anyone's grandfather well into his retirement years, Liang, a descendant of Liang Qichao (a prominent reformer of the late Qing Dynasty), never expected to be one of the foremost spokesmen and champions of environmentalism in Asia.

### 10-year incubation

A Beijing native, Liang used to be a professor of history at the Academy for Chinese Culture and he also edited several encyclopedias on China. But while most of his contemporaries were contemplating retirement, Liang found himself increasingly concerned by China's looming environmental problems, particularly in the midst of the construction boom of the 1990s. Driven by his love of nature, as well as a deep sense of social responsibility, Liang set his sights on cleaning up China.

Hearing about international groups like Greenpeace, Liang had wondered "Why not in China?" So he and a group of friends began exploring ways for the public to get involved in environmental protection. He found that creating a non-governmental organization (NGO) would be the most

effective way to reach the largest number of fellow Chinese. In 1993, he founded Friends of Nature (FON), China's first environmental NGO.

Liang, who is also a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, used his personal status to gain governmental approval for the project. After a long, difficult year of meetings, his plea was finally approved and registered as the Academy for Green Culture, an affiliate of the Academy for Chinese Culture. It is now called Friends of Nature (FON), with Liang as president.

That was 10 years ago. Today, with several thousand members, FON serves as a model for many new environmental organizations in the country.

### Getting results

Progressive thought has been a trademark of Liang's family for the past three generations. In the late 19th century Liang's grandfather, Liang Qichao, served as a western-influenced reformer in the Qing Dynasty court and also a leader of the ill-fated 1898 reform movement aimed at introducing western political reforms to save the corrupt and ailing imperial system. Liang's father Liang Sicheng, a renowned architect who served as a Beijing city planner after the establishment of New China in 1949, is remembered by Beijing residents for his efforts to save the capital's ancient city walls, albeit unsuccessfully.

Liang's gradual approach to change and his fight for nature Chinese-style distinguished him from the failed efforts of his forebears. He is by no means an eco-warrior. And despite his mission to protect the environment, Liang is sensitive to the debate over human needs versus environmental demands.

"It's really a dilemma," he says, "but to me it's a matter of time. If you destroy your resources now, your children will suffer. You will not be so poor, but your children will be even poorer. But I know it's difficult, so I always make sure I avoid empty 'Green'

**'We are advocates of controlled consumption, not suspension of development. Pursuing the culture of waste is a dead end for China. If everyone tries to have a life like that, our future is bleak.'**

words, slogans that have no practical value. We have to work very hard to solve problems pragmatically."

Convincing peasants in their township and village enterprises to give up new and prospering – but equally polluting – industries isn't easy. But Liang believes that through open dialogue rather than preaching, FON can change people's habits.

"We are advocates of controlled consumption, not suspension of development," he says. "Pursuing the culture of waste is a dead end for China. If everyone tries to have a life like that, our future is bleak."

Unlike his ancestors, Liang has learned to pick his battles well. He believes in being on good terms with the government because it has the regulatory power to improve the environment. On the other hand, FON also acts as an important watchdog of public environmental policies.

"Radical activism is not practical in China. We have to find another way of doing it, a more Chinese way." Deciding that there was more than one way to save the Earth, Liang chose to become a critical voice of reason with an emphasis on education, dialogue and cooperation.

At present, Chinese environmental NGOs focus on three main areas: seeking to educate and guide the public, promoting public involvement and communicating with the government on environmental protection policy issues. They also monitor what is happening in the field of environmental protection and help enterprises develop a

greater concern for environmental issues.

Liang believes that differences over government policies can be expressed in an atmosphere of principled compromise, if it is done properly. There are over 2,000 environmental NGOs in China and millions of participants who spend their time and money reclaiming wasteland, observing birds, planting trees and protecting endangered animals. They also work to establish green communities. Liang feels that FON can model this behavior for others to follow, and that this is a very important contribution in its own right.

Although Liang is a self-declared moderate, the very nature of his cause, which is usually unpopular, has earned him and other colleagues many enemies, even anonymous threats.

Still, Liang is optimistic that the tide will soon turn in favor of environmental causes. "I can see a real difference since we started our work, especially in public attitudes towards environmental issues. People are more sympathetic, more thoughtful, more understanding."

### Befriending Blair and Clinton

Through effective partnerships with senior journalists, FON has been able to expose illegal logging that nearly caused the extinction of a rare monkey species, illegal poaching of the endangered Tibetan antelope, and large-scale deforestation and pollution threatening the steppe in Inner Mongolia. The group is also an outspoken critic of industrial pollution around the country.

Liang drew attention to the fashionable Shatoosh scarves made from the hair of the endangered Tibetan antelope by writing to British Prime Minister Tony Blair in early 1999, calling on the British Government to raise public awareness to help protect this unique animal. In a letter dated October 7, 1999, the British Prime Minister replied: "I fully share your revulsion over the illegal slaughter of the antelopes and your concern about the future of the species. I will certainly bring your request to the attention of the environmental authorities in the UK and the European Union".

In July 1999, Liang also met US President Bill Clinton in a round-table discussion with six other Chinese environmental campaigners. At the meeting, which was held in Guilin in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Liang injected a dose of humor as he presented the US president with a photo of the endangered golden monkey, saying that man and the golden monkey are the only two primates with red lips. Clinton quickly responded, "So that's my cousin!" Everyone laughed and the meeting concluded on a successful note one hour later.

### Sowing green seeds

Liang insists that the only way to create lasting environmental improvement is to raise awareness and educate people, particularly the youth, to "patiently sow green seeds in people's minds. We don't want to provide people just with some technical knowledge. Instead, we try to modify people's values and behavior."

FON seeks to raise awareness through education

in the classrooms, colleges and via community events. Their primary target is the younger generation, tomorrow's leaders and activists, as well as tomorrow's consumers and polluters.

Over the past 10 years, about 50,000 teachers, students and children have taken part in programs organized by FON. Each year, it offers two or three training camps for hundreds of interested students and other volunteers who go out to remote rural schools to teach children about environmental issues. Contrary to the traditional classroom approach, their style is highly participatory. FON also has two "mobile classrooms" or vans called "Wild Pony" and "Antelope". They drive around the country providing training to students and teachers.

One of FON's programs is "The Better Environment Scheme," which is sponsored by Shell, to encourage primary and middle school students to design and implement environment protection projects in their own communities.

Along similar lines, FON plans to establish training centers to help teachers design new environment-oriented courses, including a variety of field trips for students that highlight the contrast between places of natural beauty and those degraded by human abuse. To disseminate information more broadly, FON plans to design a series of public-service messages for television broadcasts and local and national newspapers.

FON's quarterly newsletter has a circulation of 3,000, with funds from paying members covering production costs. Additional funds for the education programme come from a broad mix of domestic and international companies, foundations and organizations.

Delivering this message to a country just waking up to environmental issues is an enormous and exciting task.

"I want to convey my gratefulness to the people who have supported us. As China rushes to modernize, awakening an environmental consciousness in the Chinese people is more important than ever," says Liang.

### Work to the bone

Liang is the consummate workaholic. He puts in 65 hours per week on average, most of it spent in his office, which features souvenirs from his projects across China and a banner autographed by former US President Bill Clinton. As founder and president of Friends of Nature, Liang's work sometimes requires him to travel to host forums and conduct research on environmental protection and sustainable development in China.

Most of the financial support for the organization comes from its founding members, particularly Liang and his wife. Along with an advisory board of a dozen other scholars, they direct the operations on a volunteer basis. The non-profit, public welfare organization is funded entirely by membership fees and public support. Liang's success is all the more startling given that his 10-year-old group functions with only four paid staff members.

"Liang is a charismatic role model," says Zhang Jilian, manager of the FON headquarters in Beijing, proudly pointing out that all staff business cards are printed on recycled paper. "He personifies and epitomizes the spirit of Friends of Nature. It wouldn't be what it is today without his efforts."

Liang's work leaves him little time for his wife and daughter. Yet, for Liang, as a Chinese father, it is the least he can do. "We have to ask ourselves, what kind of legacy will we hand on to our children?"







By Sabu  
While much was made recently about the 50th anniversary of the release of *That's All Right* by Elvis, rock 'n' roll in China officially turns 20 year.

The three-day Helanshan Rock Music Festival marked this musical milestone with performances by "four generations" of Chinese rock legends. The all-star line-up attracted over 120,000 people to Helanshan on the outskirts of Yinchuan, Ningxia.

The brainchild of art critic and entrepreneur Huang Liaoyuan, the festival featured performances by the biggest names in Chinese rock, including Cui Jian, Heibao (Black Panther), Tang Dynasty, He Yong and Zhang Chu.

Initial reports indicate the festival has been a huge success, both financially and critically. Huang Liaoyuan told *Beijing Star Daily*, "Finally we don't lose money on Chinese rock! This is a remarkable change." According to *Sanlian Life Weekly*, only 4,000 people went to the two-day Snow Mountain Music Festival in Lijiang in 2002, and the Midi Music Festival in Beijing last October was also poorly attended.

The unprecedented line-up of star acts on one stage was no doubt key to winning such popular support. The first generation were represented by Cui Jian, Tang Dynasty, Heibao and He Yong; the second generation comprised of Gao Qi and Chaozai, Zhang Chu and Chang Kuan; while Wang Feng and 43 Baojiajie, Ziyue, Thin Man and Compass made up the third generation; and Secondhand Rose, Tongue, Buyi, Zuoxiaozuzhou,

Wang Lei, Wang Yong and Cobra the fourth.

**Direct hit**  
Although opener Zhang Chu refused to sing his big hit, *Sister*, the crowd lapped up his performance. In 1994, Magicstone Records released solo albums by Zhang, Dou Wei and He Yong, all of which became important cultural symbols of the time. Zhang Chu himself was known for his frank lyrics and heart-felt expression.

When Heibao performed their hit *Wu Di Zi Rong (Too Ashamed To Show One's Face)* at the end of the first day, the crowd went wild, and began calling for Dou Wei. Dou Wei was Heibao's lead singer from 1988 to 1991, and his absence was perhaps the biggest disappointment of the festival.

The period during which Dou was with the band is generally recognized as Heibao's most successful. Current vocalist Qin Yong spoke to *Beijing Youth Daily* about his predecessor, "In the Dou Wei-period, Heibao pursued naturalness and simplicity. I am here because I share the same understanding of music as the other members. I am not so interested in things other than music, yet being part of a band, there are factors I cannot control. I've tried my best."

On the second day, Ziyue's sarcastic style, as ever, quickly won over the audience. Gao Qi's stylish outfit won cheers from the female fans, but his voice had clearly lost some of its earlier strength. Likewise for Tang Dynasty's vocalist Ding Wu, however, the opening song *Fei Xiang Niao (Flying Bird)* quickly had the audience on their feet and in the palm of his hand. Although



this iconic band have lost a little of their shine, they remain the darlings of fans and media.

On the last day, Cui Jian and his band demonstrated their professionalism, putting in a solid performance to close the festival, but they failed to really ignite the crowd, perhaps because of the frequency of gigs in recent years.

After being out of the spotlight for almost eight years, He Yong's appearance thrilled the audience. He performed his old classic *Zhong Gu Lou (Bell Tower)* with his father, He Yusheng, a traditional music instrumentalist. In a recent interview in *Beijing Youth Daily*, He Yong stated, "I really don't know how to describe my state these years, it's mainly that... I broke myself, like self-destruction. Medical treatment has impaired my memory too. I've experienced so many

things, as if I'm just coming back from hell, but after all, I'm back, at least."

**Commercial problems**

There is still a dilemma faced by Chinese bands: to seek commercial success or remain underground? Nowadays, few record companies will sign contracts with rock bands who are only after money. Meanwhile, rampant piracy and Internet sharing have had a negative impact on the music industry. Record companies and bands have to rely on live performances to make a living.

Cui Jian pointed out that it is important to foster a market for live shows. He said, "In Western countries, there exists a mature audience for live shows, while in China, nobody wants to pay to see live rock 'n' roll. It costs time and effort to establish our own consumer base. Shows or music

festivals should not be used only to boost musicians' reputation. Music cannot live without commercial activities."

Heibao claims to be the most successful band commercially. They also point out that music and commerce should go hand in hand.

Ziyue told *Beijing News* that they have kept a low profile because they did poorly in promotion. They are now trying to promote themselves through co-operation with a TV series and advertising, and believe this is a good way to ensure the further growth of the band.

Cobra maintained that China needs its own rock stars, like Cui Jian and Tang Dynasty in the past, to make an impact on the public. Music must be connected with commerce, so that it can be popularized. "Without a commercial campaign, how could the

Beatles have existed?"

**Awakening and Confusion**

Though Chinese rock 'n' roll remains largely underground, these pioneers have changed their attitude towards both rock music and their own status within the genre.

Zhang Chu, reappearing after a long absence from the scene, said, "I just don't like to be underground. It's too suffocating and restraining. We don't have to rebel against everything. Many people don't have things to fight against. To revolt is only to let off steam, after that, nothing is solved."

Tang Dynasty singer Ding Wu said, "These years, the cultural market and media environment have changed a lot. It seems that pop music gives us more space to create. Being a culture, rock music is definitely a more powerful, direct and sincere music form. Since musicians are poets and creators, they ought to aim higher in the future."

He Yong told *Beijing News*, "Some people play music just for fun, others go for a name. I'm quite clear about my situation - I live on music, so I'll make the right decisions."

Gao Qi also stated, "Rock or pop? Actually I don't exclude any musical form, because music is not its form, but its soul. We have to make our efforts steadily, so every piece of our music carries along the whole market."

Perhaps Huang Liaoyuan was right when he said, "This music festival will draw people's attention back to the classic rock bands and songs, and remind them of our great rock musicians, as well as their sincerity when all this began."

Wang Shuo contributed to this story

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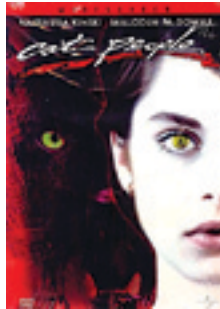


## What's on DVD



## All About Lily Chou-Chou

A film that polarized critics, Shunji Iwai's story of teenage alienation and cruelty is widely considered to be one of his best movies. Special features include trailers, text introduction, music video and a production documentary. Japanese with English and Chinese subtitles. DVD 9



## Cat People

A movie with little to recommend it other than a lot of scenes featuring Nastassja Kinski naked. Highly recommended. Also includes an interview with director Paul Schrader, in which he admits that animals were, in fact, harmed during the making of the film. English with English, French, Spanish and Chinese subtitles. DVD 9



## Until the End of the World

This 280-minute epic by Wim Wenders, sometimes road movie sometimes sci-fi, was shot in Venice, Paris, Berlin, Lisbon, Moscow, Beijing, Tokyo, San Francisco and Perth. Dismissed as misguided, slow and pretentious, hailed as a whimsical masterpiece, it is a movie that deserves to be seen. English with Chinese and Italian subtitles. DVD 5.

Faye Wong  
Coming to Town

By Zhou Ying

Pop star Faye Wong, or Wang Fei as she is known around here, will perform at Workers' Stadium next Saturday.

Originally from Beijing, the celebrated songstress is now based in Hong Kong. At a press conference in Beijing last month, she told media that she always felt a little nervous when performing in her hometown, adding that she would "sing as many favorites as possible to entertain my fans in Beijing."

The concert marks the beginning of the fifth leg of her "Unusual



Faye"tour. According to the organizers, all the sound equipment will be specially shipped from Hong Kong, and a specially constructed stage will stretch 30 meters into the audience. Wong will make her entry at the beginning of the song *Sky*, however the precise nature of this entry is being kept a closely guarded secret.

Faye Wong is not just a music legend, she is also known as a fashion pioneer, and what she wears for this concert will be subject to almost as much attention as what she sings. The organizers say she will stun her fans again by wearing shoes with a 20-centimeter heel and a one-meter-high headpiece.

Tickets: 600-1000 yuan for arena seats; 100-600 yuan for seats in the stand Tel: 8402 4258

## Rock Review

## Return of the Kings

By Wang Yao

Black Panther, the kings of Chinese rock 'n' roll, ended a five-year sabbatical this July with the release of their fifth album, *Black Panther V*.

According to a publicity release, the title "V" refers to the fact that the group have been of the road for five years; that it is their fifth album; and, of course, to "Victory." The band started work on the album two years ago, ultimately selecting

10 tracks from 30 demos.

An album with little in the way of surprises, it should still please the fans. Qin Yong sings with passionate conviction, while Li Tong, Heibao's sole remaining founding member, plays guitar like a true believer.

The album's standout track is the soft *Cuoque (Illusion)*, with its 80s' dance rock rhythm. *Shenghuo Fangshi (Lifestyle)* ventures into techno territory while Li Tong's solo highlights



his superb guitar skills. In *Toumingde Yingzi (Transparent Shadow)* the contrast of the vivid guitar, light keyboards, and heavy bass and drums endow the song with a special energy.

## WORLDWIDE

## ETs Lead Box Office

*Alien vs. Predator*, a sci-fi movie based on a hit video game, replaced Tom Cruise as the most popular draw at the North American box office on Sunday, one of three new movies to open with better-than-expected numbers.

The new champ, which pits the creatures from the venerable *Alien* and *Predator* franchises against each other, earned an estimated \$38.3 million in its first three days since opening on last Friday, said its distributor, 20th Century Fox.

The romantic comedy *Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement*, starring Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews, opened at No. 2 with \$23.0 million, while Cruise's thriller *Collateral* slipped to No. 3 with \$16.0 million. (Reuters)



Alien vs. Predator

## Evanescence Singer Plays Little Rock

Singer Amy Lee of the Grammy award-winning rock band Evanescence returned to her home town for the final show of the band's latest tour.

Lee said in an interview Saturday at Alltel Arena, across the Arkansas River from Little Rock, that it was a bit "weird" to be home. "I don't like the attention of 'you're famous so talk to me,'" Lee said. "Well, why do you want to talk to me? Just because you think 'It's going to make me cool.' That's some-thing I don't understand really."



Amy Lee

The band's debut album *Fallen* went platinum and earned them two Grammys last year for best new artist and best hard rock performance for the single, *Bring Me to Life*. Evanescence and opening act Seether have been touring since early July. (AP)

## Hollywood Couple Diane Lane, Josh Brolin Wed

Actress Diane Lane, best known for her Oscar-nominated role as a cheating wife in the 2002 film *Unfaithful*, has married her real-life leading man, actor Josh Brolin, their publicist said on Monday.

The 39-year-old actress tied the knot with Brolin, 36, at an undisclosed location on the West Coast over the weekend. The marriage marked the second trip to the altar for both performers, who live in Los Angeles. Lane has a daughter by her first spouse, actor Christopher Lambert, while Brolin has a son and daughter by his previous marriage to Alice Adair.

The couple began dating after they met at a premiere for the 2001 film *A Beautiful Mind*. Lane, last seen in the romantic feature film *Under the Tuscan Sun*, will star next in the upcoming drama *Fierce People*.

Brolin, stepson to singer Barbara Streisand by way of her marriage to his father, actor James Brolin, starred in the short-lived TV series *Mister Sterling* and is featured in the upcoming big-screen scuba diving adventure *Into the Blue*. (Reuters)



Diane Lane

Edited by Chen Si



Nicky Hilton

## Hilton Heiress Marries in Las Vegas

Hotel heiress Nicky Hilton, younger sister of Paris Hilton married a New York money manager before dawn Sunday in an impromptu ceremony, according to court filings obtained by Associated Press.

Hilton, 20, married Todd Meister, 33, at the Las Vegas Wedding Chapel, according to a Clark County marriage licence. A woman who answered the telephone at the chapel declined to comment. Access Hollywood, which first reported the wedding, said older sister Paris Hilton and actress Bijou Phillips were present during the 2:30 am ceremony.

The Hilton sisters were in town for a *Stuff* magazine party at the Palms Casino Resort, where they were joined by Meister and Nicole Richie for dinner late Saturday, resort owner George Maloof said. Maloof, who confirmed the ceremony had taken place, said the couple gave no indication of their plans. (AP)

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CITIC Prudential is one of many foreign insurers hoping to recruit new salespeople and secure solid footing in China's promising insurance market.

Photo By Photocom

## Wanted: Sales Professionals for Foreign Insurers

By Xie Lixue

China's rapidly expanding insurance market has tremendous potential. Less than 40 percent of people in this country have any kind of insurance, far behind rates in many other countries. With standards of living on the rise and ordinary people paying more attention to their health and property, it's no wonder that foreign insurance companies are clamoring to enter the market and aggressively recruiting new employees with attractive packages and starting salaries of upwards of 100,000 yuan a year.

**Features of foreign insurers**

Foreign insurance companies are relying on their strengths of customer-orientation and systematic operations to win Chinese clients.

"The insurance plans of every one of our company's clients is tailed to his or her needs and designed through friendly communication between salespeople and customers," said Peter Lin, sales manager of Metlife China. "With the intention of helping people understand what they really need or want, our salespeople concentrate on clients' personal conditions and dreams and don't just focus on making the sale."

"Though they'd been oper-

ating for 12 years, some local companies used to show the negative influence of outdated management methods. For example, they were most concerned with signing as many contracts as possible, but in that process they failed to realize they could lose customers' trust, which is the most important factor in this industry. However, many have recognized these problems and started changing the way they do business. At Metlife China, we take a long-term view, hoping to help our customers realize the benefits of insurance according to their own ideas and requirements."

Xu Zhelang, deputy general manager of the Beijing branch of CITIC Prudential, said, "Standardized operation systems determine the success of a business. We use the operational system of Prudential UK, since the insurance industry is more mature and experienced abroad, but add some Chinese characteristics. Chinese employees are our operators in this market, so we try to reduce possible conflicts between Western concepts and the realities of the local market. We hope that our employees can improve quickly using advanced concepts in the domestic context."

**Starving for salespeople**



Xu Zhelang

Due to the rapid growth of the domestic market, insurance companies and foreign firms in particular are facing shortages of skilled salespeople.

"Nowadays, our clients average around 25 to 45 years old, exactly the age our salespeople should be. However, young graduates just entering the working world are inexperienced, while older ones who have worked in Chinese operations often struggle to adjust their mentalities and attitudes," Xu noted.

"There is also heavy demand for top managers skilled in both operation and management. We have excellent people in sales and in management, but people who can combine the two are rare and normally command salaries of 30,000 yuan to 50,000 yuan per month."

A major obstacle to adding to the management ranks is that

very experienced salespeople are likely to earn more money than their managers. That obviously makes them reluctant to change roles, according to Xu.

Peter Lin said, "At Metlife China, some managers in administration and sales have experience studying abroad and in management. Sales positions are more challenging and skill-based, as our life planners have to act as promoters and consultants, introducing, explaining and selling our products."

**Training for success**

In the face of the talent shortage, some foreign companies have begun relying on training of new recruits as a way of filling their sales ranks in the domestic market.

The first class that new CITIC Prudential recruits go through is an introduction to corporate culture. "We focus on the idea of respect. For example, we listen to their suggestions and opinions and give them timely feedback. We also give employees many opportunities to train and use their skills in practice with the support of more experienced colleagues," Xu said.

"Recruits in Metlife China receive concept, skills and professional training for the first year," said Lin. "After one year, they are able to develop their career in their own fields."

## Corporate HR

Ford: Greenhouse for Promising Graduates

By Xie Lixue

On August 11, Andrew Jackson, vice president of the human resources department of Ford Motor China Ltd. accepted an interview with *Beijing Today* to discuss his company's corporate culture and recruitment policy.

**Beijing Today:** What is the corporate environment like at Ford?

**Jackson:** We have what we call "12 Ford Leadership Behaviors", which are split into three groups: integrity, flawless execution and relationship. Integrity demands telling the truth, doing the right thing and emphasizing diversity. Flawless execution includes business acumen, innovation and technical excellence, commitment to quality, courage, and a drive for results and customer satisfaction. Relationship means developing employees and teams, connecting with customers and making commitments to the community.

**BT:** How do you encourage employees and keep them working at Ford?

**Jackson:** Some believe that the most important motivation for people is money. But a lot of academic studies have shown that the best way to retain employees and get them to work hard while being flexible and creative is to keep them happy and form teams that get along well.

A good boss-employee relationship can generally make people loyal to their supervisors and the company. Every four to six weeks, we have "all hands meetings" to which nearly all employees are invited. Typically our CEO and senior managers talk about what's going on, what's happening in the business and where there are problems and then it finishes with a good question and answer session. But



Andrew Jackson

sometimes the Chinese people are very polite, so we have to encourage them to raise more questions, even some tough questions, to management.

**BT:** Do you recruit recent university graduates?

**Jackson:** Yes. We have many programs for university recruitment, such as talks and lectures. I have here the list of this year's graduates who are applying to work at Ford - there's around 85.

Our business in China is growing very fast. By the end of next year, we will recruit roughly 400 new employees for our China operations, and recent graduates should account for nearly 90 percent of those positions. The positions will be available in many different fields, including purchasing, engineering, finance, accounting, logistics, HR, PR and marketing and sales.

**BT:** Do you have suggestions for graduates applying for jobs?

**Jackson:** When you're putting in an application, it's always a good idea to carefully check the content, because we study application forms very carefully. For interviews, be prepared to provide tangible examples of your abilities and accomplishments. Most recent graduates don't have too much experience, but that's not so important. You need to show your experiences in school and outside, such as from your social life, to show you are a person with a wide range of interests. We are looking for good, solid people who work hard and have good common sense.

## Job Hunting

A man, aged 45, is looking for a job as a finance or economics teacher in a professional school. 5-years teaching experience in subjects of Chinese, politics, history and geography in elementary and middle schools, also has worked as lecturer in the training of negotiable securities for 12 years.

Please contact Mr. Chen at 03923931163 or 13939285530

Email: huajun852@hotmail.com

A part-time English teacher

in a middle school who likes kids and is good at communicating with them wants to teach some foreign kids Chinese language or other subjects like Chinese history. I have taught English, Chinese history and math.

Contact:moble:13671304715 or E-mail:tomchang843@hotmail.com

Mary seeks a job as a private tutor or travel guide for foreign friends. Has some related experience.

Contact: 8917 0145 (Edited by Xie Lixue)

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BEIJING TODAY  
今日北京

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# Getting More for Your Money at Aussie Banks

Advice for overseas students on how to manage money

By Alan Wang/Edited by Zhang Nan

There are many kinds of banks in Australia, and navigating the market to get the kind of services international students need is no simple matter.

Shortly after they arrive in Australia, overseas students will need to open bank accounts. Some banks have commission charges, normally around AU\$5 to AU\$8 a month, but students can avoid the fees by presenting a student card, granted after registering at university. Student cards need to be renewed every year before March and new cards need to be shown to banks to keep them from levying the fees later.

The four main banks in the country are Commonwealth Bank, National Bank, Westpac Bank and ANZ Bank. They have different strengths and weaknesses, but because they have the most branches and ATMs, they all at least offer convenience.

## Commonwealth Bank

On its reputation of rock-solid security, Commonwealth Bank is the first choice of many international students. It is Australia's biggest bank by far and the only one of the main four that can issue student credit cards. A drawback is that service is not always very friendly and regular transactions require lots of paperwork.

One of Commonwealth Bank's good points is it allows international students who do not have regular income to apply for student credit cards with a credit limit AU\$500. But getting the cards is not too easy.

## National Bank

Just a bit smaller than Commonwealth, National Bank seems to have been struggling of late. Just before I returned to China at the end of 2003, I heard that National Bank lost a lot of money in an overseas financial investment. Many students in Australia transferred their money to other banks for fear National Bank was going to go under. One advantage of National is that it runs sub-branches on many university campuses, giving students convenient access to their cash.

## Westpac Bank

The oldest bank in Australia, Westpac Bank has a good reputation. Some branches do not charge commissions on foreign exchange transactions, good for foreign students that normally bring in US dollars, but that is changing.

## ANZ Bank (Australia and New Zealand Bank)

ANZ Bank is the weakest of the big four, and offers little incentives for international students – plus the attitudes of its clerks can be appalling.

Once I forgot to renew my record at ANZ for three months and then found they had deducted service fees from my account. I showed them my new student card, but the bank clerks refused to return my money. I was very upset.

The exact same thing happened at HSBC, and they refunded my money right away.

## Recommendations:

### St. George Bank

It may have fewer branches than the main four banks, but St. George Bank makes up for it with a good reputation among mid-sized banks and outstanding service.

Customers don't have to fill out forms to open an account or deposit or withdraw money – the clerks take care of it. St. George also offers better exchange rates than most other banks.

### HSBC (Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation)

HSBC allows customers to deposit US dollars directly, but they have low exchange rates and charge commission fees.

The bank's online saving accounts are

Alan Wang graduated from Macquarie University in Sydney in 2003 and has spent around two years in Australia. Starting this week, he will regularly share his experiences to help *Beijing Today* better understand life in Australia.



very good ideas for international students. These accounts offer 24-hour access, decent interest and other benefits. A downside is they charge small fees for withdrawing money from teller windows, though the first five months of ATM use is free. The bank has limited branches, but plenty of ATMs around the country.

### Bank of China in Australia

Unlike nearly all banks in Australia (except HSBC), the Bank of China allows people to deposit US dollars directly, without first converting them to Australian dollars, which is convenient and can add up to extra savings.

However, Bank of China has some real disadvantages. It has very few branches in Sydney. It charges a two percent commission fee for withdrawals in US dollars. You can avoid those charges by converting money at the bank, but its rates are the lowest in town, meaning doing so leads to losing money.

### Best idea:

It sounds complicated, but I had success by exchanging US dollars to Australian dollars at St. George Bank, which offered good exchange rates, and then transferring the money to an online saving account at HSBC, which offered good interest rates. Using the advantages of both banks really helped me save, and earn, a lot of money.

## Ask Ayi:

**Q: I am studying at Chengdu Children's Normal School. I enrolled in the course after graduating from middle school, which means that I did not take part in the University Entrance Examination and do not have a high school diploma. My school belongs to Sichuan Normal University and the course I am studying is a five-year program.**

**After graduation, I will get a professional diploma in education technology from Sichuan Normal University, which is nationally recognized. My question is, will German universities recognize my diploma? I intend to study for a bachelor's degree at Sichuan Normal University after graduating and at the same time learn German. Can I go to Germany to continue my studies after completing my one-year undergraduate course here?**

– ilovejordanchen

**A:** To study in Germany, you will first have to have a certain score on China's university entrance examination. Since you don't have such a score, you will likely have to go to the local branch of the Ministry of Education to get a certificate proving you directly entered a technical secondary school and then a junior college without taking the University Entrance Examination. Once you have such a certificate in hand, you can apply to universities in Germany.

**Q: If I go to Germany to study, will it be possible for my parents to go with me?**

– zhanghaijun1127

**A:** Anyone who goes with you to Germany will have to get a visa to stay there. There is a requirement that you have to stay in Germany for at least half a year before someone in your family or otherwise connected to you can apply for that kind of visa from China.

(Edited By Ruan Ying/ Zhang Nan)



A bird's-eye view of the University of Canterbury campus in Christchurch, New Zealand

# Learn in a Land of Culture and Beauty

New Zealand's University of Canterbury is located in Christchurch, the biggest city in the Southern Island. This public university was founded by scholars from Oxford and Cambridge in 1873 and offers world-class facilities and education quality.

Monday afternoon, Professor Roy Sharp, vice-chancellor of the University of Canterbury was our guest in the Study Abroad Salon as part of Focus on New Zealand and had an informative chat with *Beijing Today* readers for around an hour.

## The basics:

**What are some reasons why Chinese students should choose to study at the University of Canterbury?**

– Jackie Zhang

Most important is the quality of our education – the University of Canterbury is one of New Zealand's top universities, in a country where the standard of university education is already very high.

Then there is the cost – the cost of study is very reasonable in New Zealand compared to many other Western countries.

Third would be the location: Christchurch is a small city that has plenty of activities (concerts, shopping, sports events, etc) but is also easy to get around. There are plentiful parks, gardens and beaches, and it's very easy to get out into the countryside.

We offer a very wide range of subjects and have good student support systems. Please check our website [www.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz), where you can view international student testimonials.

**What is the ranking of the University of Canterbury in New Zealand?**

– xiaozhang

As you may know, the New Zealand government has recently ranked the country's universities – that exercise proved what we already suspected, that the University of Canterbury was one of the two top research universities in the country.

**What kind of research and teaching does University of Canterbury focus on, artistic subjects or academic subjects?**

– blueocean

All the subjects you named are available. Students at the university can study for degrees in science,

business, arts (the humanities and social sciences), engineering, law, music, or forestry science. There are also special schools of fine arts, social work and communication disorders. For more specific information, please check our website [www.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz).

**I heard that there is an International Language Center at your university and students who do not have high enough language test scores can learn English there first and then enter a degree course after passing language tests. Is this the case? How long would such language study last and what are the costs? How can students apply for that course?**

– telephone



Professor Roy Sharp

We have an excellent English Language Center on campus, which provides courses that will not only help you with your English but also teach you the study skills you will need to succeed in your first year at university.

The time it will take depends upon your level of English when you begin. The English Language Center staff will assess your English and give you an estimate of how long your study will take. For costs and how to apply, please look at our website [www.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz).

**How many overseas students and Chinese students are currently enrolled in your university?**

– samuri

There are 2,300 international students from almost 60 different countries. The total number of overseas students studying here in Christchurch is 13,000. At present, there are about 1,100 Chinese students in degree programs and another 150 in preparatory programs.

## Famous subjects and joint programs with China:

**The University of Canterbury is famous for its engineering course, known to be the best in New Zealand in terms of teaching and research. What are the requirements for Chinese students who want to apply for that program? What kind of IELTS or TOEFL scores do we need? What are the career prospects of students who graduate from the engineering program at your university?**

– xiaozhang

Because students in New Zealand spend one more year at high school than students in China, you will have to have either completed a successful first year of university study in China or have a university entrance qualification gained in New Zealand. The university has a foundation studies course, which provides an excellent preparation for entry into the engineering degree.

IELTS entry level for the degree is 6.0 and 5.5 for the foundation studies course. You can find more detailed information on our website [www.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz).

Career prospects are excellent because our engineering school is internationally renowned and accredited.

**Do you have any joint programs with Chinese universities? How can we apply for those courses?**

– QQstar

The only program we currently have with a Chinese university is in chemical and process engineering in conjunction with the Beijing University of Petroleum. You can contact that university for details on how to apply.

## Application:

**I expect to get my IELTS results in 10-15 days and plan to begin my university study at the beginning of 2005. I expect the visa process to take about two months. Is there still time? What time does that term start?**

– lil curly puppy

The 2005 term starts in the middle of February. There should be plenty of time but I recommend that you apply as soon as possible so there is no last minute rush.

**When I am applying to schools in NZ, the scores of my four-year university study should be notarized with an official seal. Do I need to get that notarization from a notary office in China?**

– little voice

If you are applying for postgraduate study, either an original transcript from your university or an official one, not a copy, is what is required.

**If my IELTS scores are not up to your university's requirements, can I still get a conditional offer and enroll first in language courses?**

– lil curly puppy

Yes, we can give you a conditional offer for entry to the university based on your academic results.

## Entertainment and job opportunities:

**Please describe available activities besides study at your school!**

– rosytulip

There are over 100 clubs and societies in the university, including sport, recreation and cultural programs. As a part of their fees, international students have free use of our well-equipped recreation center. We're also close to the mountains and the wild unspoiled beauty of New Zealand's Southern Alps.

Christchurch is the largest city in the Southern Island of New Zealand, and has many cultural attractions, including theatres, a symphony orchestra, wonderful art galleries, plentiful playing fields and golf courses, and is host to many local and international concerts and events.

**Does the university offer part-time jobs to overseas students?**

– lil curly puppy

Post-graduate students sometimes have opportunities for employment as tutors. Undergraduate students need to find employment outside the university and we have a student job search office to assist them with this.

Having said that, we encourage first year students in particular to concentrate on their studies – it is much more important to do well in classes than to tire oneself out working as well.

(Edited by Zhang Nan)



# Shake Your Tailfeathers

By Lu Pinrou

Salsa fever has come to town, and Beijing has got it bad. The infectious rhythms, hot outfits and racy dances have made a big splash in the capital thanks to a few clubs that have wasted no time in gaining huge followings. Even people with two left feet are getting into the vibe, thanks to the free instruction offered at some popular joints.



DJ cocktail, 40 yuan

In case you've been in hiding for the past several years, salsa is a dance from Latin America that has taken hold of feet and hips all over the

world. It formed from a mixture of different Cuban, Afro-Caribbean and Latin dances, and is somewhat similar to the mambo but with lots more spins and slides involved. The irresistible music and movements of salsa are sure to get all but the most dance-reluctant off their bottoms and onto the dance floor.

Beijing salsa addicts tend to give the same explanations for their passions: dancing is a great way to relax and express oneself, letting gentle or sexy movements do the talking. One local named David quipped, "If you don't know how to dance, you don't know how to make love right."

While resting their sore feet, or just trying to soak up the vibe without getting into the action, patrons at the popular clubs below can dive into dishes and drinks steeped in Latin flavors. There may be cheaper places to eat and drink in town, but few offer half the atmosphere.

The newly-established **Salsa Caribe** has made a fast splash on the scene and by some accounts is already the hottest salsa spot in town.

Though tucked down a small alley off Gongti Beilu, the club is hard to miss, with the bow of a mock pirate ship (think *Pirates of the Caribbean*) protruding out the front.

The vibe inside is pure exuberance, with throbbing

rhythms cooked up by a live band or ace DJs and dancers whirling around the floor. Greenhorns ready to get busy can enroll in weekend classes in salsa and other kinds of Latin dances taught by Cuban masters.

The bar serves drinks to match the theme. As it deserves, the classic Cuban cocktail the *mojito* (45 yuan) gets top billing. This mix of rum, lime, mint and sugar can be surprisingly potent, yet is light enough to keep you dancing all night long.



Feitian cocktail, 40 yuan

More along novelty lines is the non-alcoholic house special *Salsa Caribe* (40 yuan), a technicolor mocktail mixed from orange and pineapple juice, grenadine, soda water and blue coloring. It is

presented in layers that run from red to yellow to blue, adding to the fruity fun.

Food follows Latin and American cues. The pride of the kitchen is flambéed tournedos of beef (*huoyan niupai*, 108 yuan), in which slices of tender meat are cooked in seasoned butter with bacon and vegetables and served topped with brandy that

is set aflame at the table.

More along Mexican lines is the beef taco plate, which fetches a far less flashy price of 38 yuan. Authenticity might be questionable, but taste is not, when crisp taco shells are filled with a mixture of ground beef cooked with potatoes, onions, peppers, tomatoes and beans, crisp bacon and cheese. Watch out, though – polishing off a heavy taco is not always a good idea before an impassioned booty shaking session.

**Where:** No. 4 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang **Open:** 7:30 pm till late **Average cost:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 6507 7821

*Mas* credit for the explosion of the salsa trend in Beijing should go to **Latinos**, perhaps the first local establishment to take up the theme and still going strong at the south gate of Chaoyang Park.

Dancing is priority no. 1 and the sprawling, two-level floor gives people plenty of room to shake it. Tunes come from a stellar Venezuelan eight-piece band or competent DJs.

Go with a partner or go to meet new ones among the nightly

crowds of fellow swingers. Or try one of Latino's many dancing classes taught by some of the best instructors in town.

After working up a salsa sweat, quench that thirst with a concoction from the club's bar. For a trip to Brazil in a glass, check out a *caipirinha*, made of rum-like Cachaca, limes and plenty of sugar. It's like a mojito, but different, and goes for 40 yuan a dose.



Salsa Caribe cocktail, 40 yuan

Another classic choice is sangria, a mixture of red wine, orange juice, soda and fruit that has the sugar content, refreshing cut and alcoholic punch to keep you dancing till the wee hours.

The food menu offers a range of *tapas* and *empandas*. Customers looking to escape the heat of the dance floor while kicking back with a drink and a snack would do well to check out Latino's terrace bar while the weather stays mild.

**Where:** just west of south gate of Chaoyang Park, Nongzhanguan Nanlu, Chaoyang **Open:** 7:30 pm till late **Average cost:** 60 yuan **Tel:** 6507 9898

Real Cuban experts teach this city to swing at Salsa Caribe.

Photos by Wang Yumeng

## Stir It Up

By Joel Kirkhart

Clubgoers know salsa to mean an exotic dance, but food fans know it better as something very different – a delicious, fresh sauce used in Latin American cuisines. On a weeknight, instead of a sweaty rump-shaking session, take it easy and chop your way to a delicious meringue for your mouth by whipping up some salsa.

The term salsa itself can be roughly translated to sauce, but also implies some kind of explosion, explaining both the strong flavors of the dishes and the strong moves of the dance.

The classic form of salsa is made with tomatoes (now nearing peak season), but varieties are limited only by imagination. Refreshing green salsa, or *salsa verde*, is based on tomatillos, while some less traditional versions center around beans, corn, tropical fruit like mangos and papaya or more familiar fruits like peaches and watermelon. What all salsas share in common is an emphasis on fresh ingredients, which are typically diced raw and mixed together with a few simple spices to allow their ripe, rich natural flavors to star.

Salsa is delicious on its own, devoured as a dip with Mexican-style corn chips or fresh cut raw vegetables. It can also add layers of new flavor to bigger dishes, from simple broiled chicken breasts to more complicated fare.

**Recipe: Classic tomato-chili salsa**

This simply addictive Mexican staple also goes by the name *salsa mexicana* or *pico de gallo*.

400 grams ripe tomatoes (2 medium-small tomatoes)  
4 fresh green chilies (add more, or chose spicier varieties to increase heat)  
1 bunch fresh, clean cilantro  
1 large garlic clove, peeled and finely diced  
1 small white onion  
1 1/2 tbsp fresh lime juice  
3/4 tsp salt

Wash tomatoes, then remove core, cut in half and deseed (seeds can be left in for a different texture and look). Dice tomatoes into small squares and put into a bowl and add chopped garlic. Cut chilies in half lengthwise, and remove seeds to reduce heat (leave the seeds in for a spicier salsa). Dice finely, finer than the tomato pieces, and add to tomatoes.



Corn salsa

Rinse cilantro and pat dry. Bunch springs and slice into short lengths from the leaves to the end of the stems. Add to mixture in bowl. Peel onion, finely dice and then rinse onion pieces in a colander or strainer carefully under cold water to dampen the sharpness of their flavor. Shake to remove excess water and add to mixture in bowl. Add lime juice and salt to taste. Let salsa sit before serving for flavors to meld, then present in a bowl for dipping or aside grilled steak, broiled chicken or simple rice. Makes two cups.

**Recipe: Corn salsa**

This colorful salsa uses a base of corn for a different texture and flavor. It is best made with cooked, fresh kernels, but since good sweet corn is nearly impossible find in this city, decent versions can be made using frozen kernels or, in desperate situations, canned corn.

1 1/4 cups fresh cooked corn kernels or frozen kernels, thawed  
1/4 cup chopped red onion  
1/4 cup chopped red bell pepper  
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro  
1 1/2 tbsp fresh lime juice  
2 tsp chopped green chili (keep seeds for extra heat)  
Salt and black pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Season with salt and black pepper and mix to combine thoroughly. Let sit one to four hours in refrigerator before serving for flavors to meld.



Classic tomato-chili salsa, or pico de gallo

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## Personal Classifieds

### Accommodation

Flatmate wanted to share fully-furnished, tidy, two-bedroom apartment with a professional man. Located at Huateng Garden on the East Third Ring Road. Only 2 Bus stops from Guomao. 24-hour hot water and security. 1300 yuan per month (all bills inclusive). Contact: Samuel, on 13621137003 or ulink@163.com

### Sale and wanted

New Samsung single-door refrigerator, suitable for singles' use. Price: 500 yuan. Contact: 6582 7154

### Language exchange

Crystal, a college student, wants to find an exchange partner in English. Contact her: 6890 9138

A Chinese girl, studying English at the University of International Business and Economics, is seeking English native speakers for language exchange. She is keen on literature, western culture, movies and theatre. She is waiting for your friendship. Her email: suchen\_adela@tom.com

Vivian, a sales and market-

ing professional, wants to get to know native English speakers to learn English. Her email: vivian.jin@cpparkviewbj.com

A female postgraduate in Beijing Broadcasting Institute is looking for an English native speaker as a language partner. Contact: Miss Liang, 6571 3984, email: poorsock@126.com

A Chinese boy, looking for a good-hearted, down to earth, female to teach him English. He can help you sort out visas and other things. Contact: 8659 2919, email: alen67892000@yahoo.com.cn

### Personals

An English-speaking tour guide, experienced, well-educated, is willing to lead you to explore Beijing. Make arrangements in advance. Contact: 13641244321, 89150339

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## Movies



### Infernal Affairs III

Directed by Andrew Lau, Alan Mak, starring Andy Lau, Tony Leung, Anthony Wong, Eric Tsang, Edison Chen, Shawn Yue, Carina Lau, and Kelly Chen. The third installment in the hard boiled, Hong Kong cops and triads movie series features Andy Lau facing a new threat from an internal investigation and a young rival coming up through the ranks.

**Where:** Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm tonight and Saturday **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303



### Are We Men or Corporals?

Directed by Camillo Mastrocinque, starring Totò and Paolo Stoppa. Totò is an extra in a film, but every day he is up to some mischief. After his last disaster, he's left in a psychiatrist's care. He explains to the doctor his theory about there being two kinds of men: those who are exploited and abused and the Corporals, exploiters and abusers. This classic film blends penetrating satire and good old-fashioned slap-stick comedy.

**Where:** Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang **When:** 7 pm, August 26 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187

## Jams



### Toydeath

Toydeath proves that punk isn't dead, it's just different. Re-purposing electronic children's toys to create energetic bursts of rock'n'roll mayhem, this Australian trio from Sidney knows you don't have to play by the rules to have fun. Founded in 1995, Toydeath have won numerous awards around the world. German techno gurus Kraftwerk are re-worked in a way that's bound to appeal.

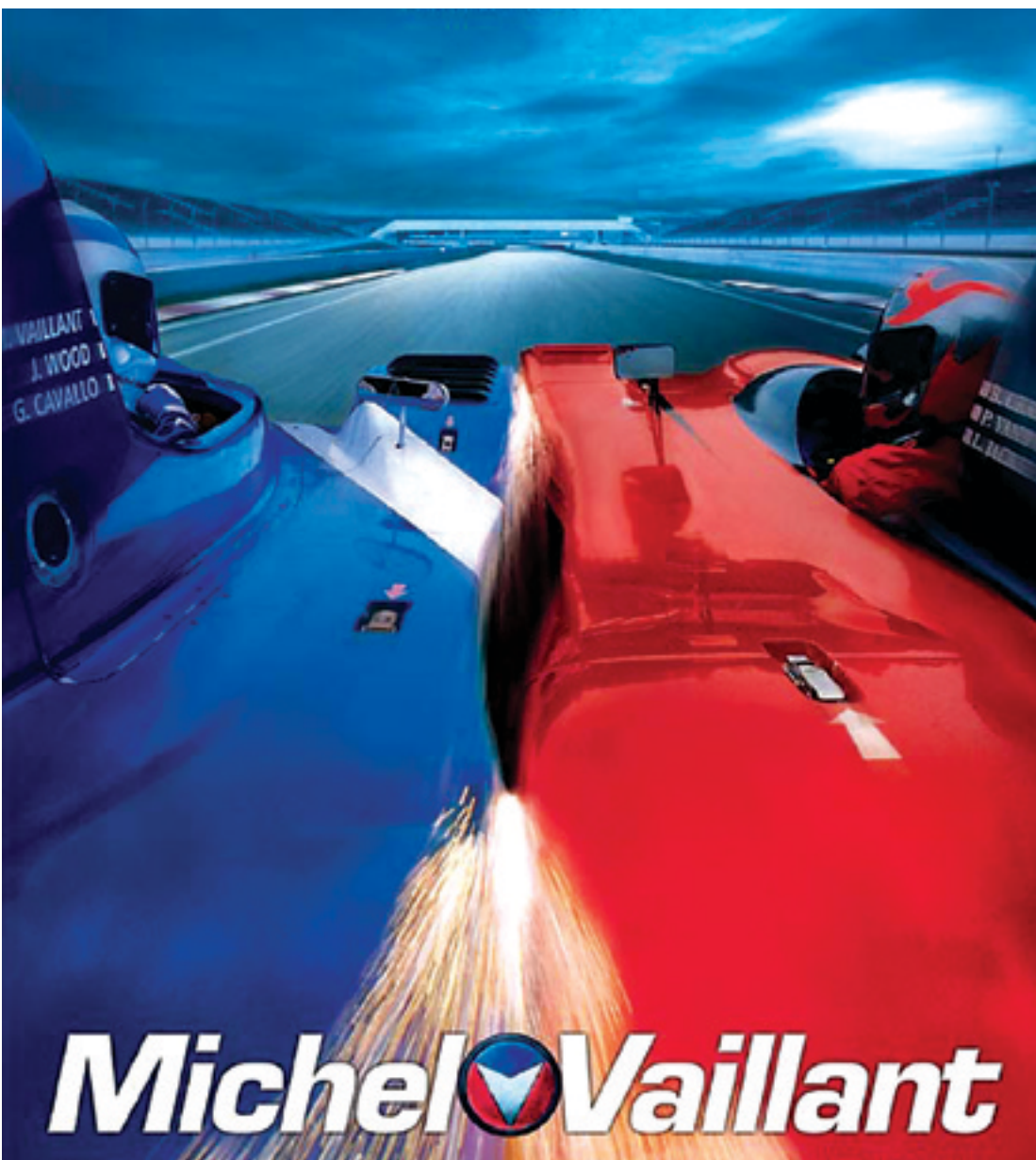
**Where:** Now Club, inside Dashanzi Art District **When:** 9 pm, tonight **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6438 2857



### Funky Diner

DJ V-Nutz serves up funky beats while Alfa provides all the beverages you can drink, from cocktails to Tsingtao.

**Where:** Alfa, 5 Xingfu Yicun, Chaoyang **When:** tonight **Admission:** 100 yuan **Tel:** 6413 0086

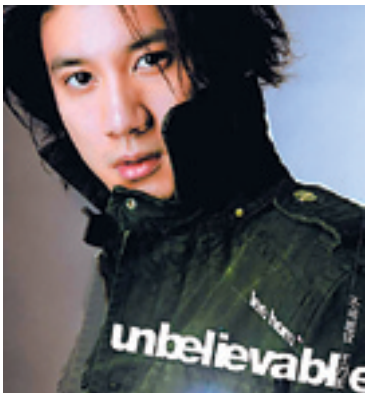


### Michel Vaillant

Directed by Louis-Pascal Couvelaire, starring Sagamore Stévenin, Peter Youngblood Hills and Diane Kruger. The story is about a racing family and the youngest son who dreams of glory at Le Mans. Fast paced thrills for petrolheads.

**Where:** UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** opens August 20 **Tel:** 6261 2851

## Music



### Are You Loving It?

Alexander Leehom, or Wang Lihong in Chinese, is to hold a concert in Beijing. He is the voice behind the repetitive "I'm loving it" jingle broadcast by McDonald's. Apart from his fine voice, graceful figure and attractive face, this American-born Chinese singer is known to his legion of fans for his outstanding gift for music. He is a master of both the piano and the violin. Leehom will for the first time perform the erhu, the two-stringed Chinese fiddle, at this concert.

**Where:** Capital Gymnasium, Baishiqiao Lu **When:** 7:30, August 21 **Admission:** 200-1000 yuan **Tel:** 6835 4055

### Bass Solo

Tian Haojiang is one of China's most renowned opera singers

and has won numerous international singing competitions including the Rosa Ponce Foundation Voice Competition, the Sullivan Foundation Voice Competition in New York and the San Francisco Opera Competition. Tian will sing popular arias from operas *Don Carlos* and *The Barber of Seville*, as well as world folk songs and Broadway hits. Tian earned fame as a basso cantate following his debut in the 1991/1992 season with the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

**Where:** Poly Theatre, Dongsu Shitiao **When:** 7:30 pm, August 21 **Admission:** 300-1280 yuan **Tel:** 6506 5343



## Performance

### Cinderella

The World Theatre of Dogs from Uzbekistan arrives in Beijing to stage a version of *Cinderella* with canine characteristics. The theatre company comprises 40 humans and 40

dogs, and the show combines circus, ballet and drama. In this version, the orphaned heroine Cinderella works as a dog trainer in her spare time. As the prince searches for his beloved, who can wear the crystal shoe, the scenes and props keep changing to reflect the different flavours of various countries. In between, ethnic dancing adds a touch of glamour to the show. And of course the clever dogs have a major role to play in ensuring that everyone lives happily ever after!

**Where:** Beijing Exhibition Theatre, 135 Xizhimenwai, Xicheng **When:** 2 pm and 7:30 pm, August 21 **Admission:** 80-300 yuan **Tel:** 6406 8888 / 9999

### Double Trouble

A drama called *He Does Not Have Two Wives* is to be staged. Since it was premiered in 1997, it has been performed over 100 times in Taipei, Shanghai and Beijing. With its dark humor, satire and open criticism of politics and social phenomena, it has amused audiences with its wit and clever twists, striking a chord with many. The plot centers on a taxi driver with two wives. Neither knows about the existence of the other for four years. He happens to do a good deed one day, which leads to the secret being unveiled.

**Where:** Tianqiao Theatre, Beiwai Lu, Xuanwu **When:** 7:30 pm, August 26 **Admission:** 40-280 yuan **Tel:** 8315 6300

## Exhibitions

### Summer Chinese Painting Exhibition



An exhibition of modern Chinese painting by three of China's top female artists, Li Li, Wang Luxia and Liu Chunming.

**Where:** Qin Gallery, Hua Wei Li 1-1E, North of Beijing Curio City **When:** August 20-31 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6779 0461

### Zhuang Xiaolei Oil Painting Exhibition



Zhuang Xiaolei's paintings have a rich flavor of music, an indication of Zhuang's efforts to free himself from limitations of genre.

**Where:** Creation Art Gallery, North end of Ritan Dong Lu **When:** August 21-29 **Open Hours:** 3 pm - 6 pm, August 21 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570

### Graduation Special



Young graduates from the print department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts showcase their works at the New Millennium Art Gallery. The young artists use a variety of methods including silk screens, copperplate and wood block to present the diversified aesthetic direction of the new generation born in the 1980s. Their works are consistent with classical culture but add an exploration of modern thoughts, impressing people with different impressions of life in the city.

**Where:** New Millennium Gallery, 2F Diyang Mansion, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 9 am - 6 pm until September 8 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8453 6193

## Activities

### Great Wall Bike and Hike

Travel to the countryside with Cycle China and explore some of the less touristy parts of the Great Wall.

Meet at Gongti Ximen, **When:** August 22, depart at 8:00 am **Admission:** 200 yuan **Tel:** 13911886524

### Walk Like a Pilgrim

Miao Feng Shan temple sits on the top of Miao Feng mountain. The temple is still an important religious site. The walk begins from the semi-restored temples at the foot of the mountain. The walk offers ancient trails, forest scenery, and wonderful high mountain views.

**Where:** Mentougou, west of Beijing **When:** August 22, pick up: 8 am at Lido Hotel, outside starbucks **Cost:** 150 yuan (100 yuan for children under 12) **Tel:** 13910025516

### Exploration & Weekend Art Workshop

The Village Club of Songzhuang artists' village offers a three-hour tour to explore the village art community. You can meet some of the 300 professional artists residing there and visit their studios and gardens, as well as see their latest works and gain a better understanding of the life of these artists far away from the mainstream. Village Club also offers weekend classes on pottery, Chinese painting, paper cutting, calligraphy, T-shirt painting and Peking Opera face painting for adults and children.

**Where:** 1 Renzhuang Beilu, Tongzhou **When:** 9 am - 5 pm for art classes and 10:30 am - 1:30 pm or 2-5 pm for studio visits, Saturday & Sunday **Tel:** 13901244283 or 6959 8343

## TV and Radio Highlights

### HBO

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Catch Me If You Can 9:00 pm

#### 21 Saturday

Two Weeks Notice 9:00 pm

#### 22 Sunday

Casualties 11:10 pm

#### 23 Monday

Pavement 9:00 pm

#### 24 Tuesday

The New Guy 10:30 pm

#### 25 Wednesday

Gods And Generals 10:50 pm

#### 26 Thursday

Shark Hunter 7:25 pm

### CCTV-9

#### Monday - Friday

Around China 6:30 am

Cultural Express 8:30 am

Nature and Science /

Chinese Civilization 11:30 am

Cultural Express /

Nature and Science /

Chinese Civilization 5:30 pm

Dialogue 7:30 pm

News Updates /

Asia Today 8 pm

Sports Scene 11:15 pm

#### Saturday

Travelogue 9:30 am

Center Stage 11:30 am

#### Sunday

Sports Weekend 10 am

Documentary 10:30 am

This Week 12:30 am

China Radio International 91.5 FM

#### Monday - Friday

Easy FM Afternoon 2-7 pm

Fun in Beijing 5-5:30 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

#### Saturday

Music Memories 8:05-11 am

Euro Hit 40 12:05-1 pm

Music Sans Frontiers 6:05-8 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

#### Sunday

Music Memories 8:05-11 am

Jazz Beat 6:05-8 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

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By Zhang Jianzhong



# Free Love in the Mountains

In the valley of the Xianshui River, deep in the remote mountains of central Sichuan, the Zhaba people practice an unusual marriage system, about which few outsiders have heard. The Zhaba live under a matriarchal system that dates back to a much earlier time than that of the Mosuo people of Lugu Lake, several hundred kilometers to the south.



Visiting a lover requires a degree of dedication.  
Photo by Wang Tong

By Shan Zhiqiang / Peng Juan  
The Xianshui River is a tributary of the Yarlong River (the upper reaches of the Yangtze), flowing through central Sichuan. The Zhaba people live in the Xianshui River valley, mainly in the remote mountainous area between Daoфу and Yajiang counties in the southwest of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

The name Zhaba in Tibetan, refers to "the ravine formed among the rugged cliffs." The mountains and valleys are dotted with little "stone castles" where the Zhaba people have lived for generations.

Our first stop to visit the Zhaba was at the home of Duojie, a doctor in the village of Xueyou who speaks a little Mandarin. His four storey house has a rectangular foundation. It is uneven in shape, narrow at the top and broad at the bottom. The walls are 50 centimeters thick, and each floor above the second has four or five small windows.

The ground floor is used to house livestock. The second floor is the family hall, with a kitchen in the center. This is where the family members dine, chat, get together and treat their guests. When night falls, family members old and young make their beds on the floor near the hearth. There is one room on the third floor, used for praying and offering sacrifices, as well as storing and chanting Buddhist scriptures. The fourth floor is used for the storage of wheat, barley and forage plants. There is an open veranda where wheat and corn are air dried. The windows and roofs are engraved with beautiful, auspicious designs.

Houses here are also called *diaolou*, literally "fortified watchtowers." Although many different shapes and designs can be seen, they share some common characteristics, such as thick walls and small slit windows, standing upright like ancient European castles. **Smelly pork**

At dinner, we ate *tsampa* (a Tibetan food made of roasted barley flour), buttered tea, and the local specialty – *xunrou* (smelly pork). According to Duojie, every Zhaba family has a whole smoke-dried pig hanging above the kitchen



Diaolou in Bali village

Photo by Shan Zhiqiang

stove, symbolizing the family's wealth. *Xunrou* has an even stronger smell than the renowned *chou doufu* (smelly beancurd) of Hunan and Guangdong provinces. To the Zhaba people, pork fat symbolizes riches and affluence. The greater the quantity of *xunrou*, and the longer it has been preserved, the richer the family.

Duojie explained that after a pig is butchered, it is salted and stuffed with barley and wheat. It is then stitched up and buried in wheat bran for around 10 days. After that, the carcass is smoked by hanging it from a beam over the kitchen stove. It usually takes three to five years at least before the meat can be eaten. For the locals, a steady supply of *xunrou* is symbolic of both good health and wealth.

## Climb through a lover's window

After several drinks, Duojie started to talk about the local custom of "visiting marriage."

When children reach the age of 13, they go through a special ceremony marking the arrival of adulthood. After this, boys and girls are permitted to take part in all adult activities. They can woo their lovers after they turn 16, or even earlier. The Zhaba call their lovers *xiayi*, meaning sweetheart.

They are not bound by marriage and live in the home of their mothers all their lives. Every adult girl has in her mother's home a special room of her own where her lover can visit by climbing in through the window at night but must leave early the next morning.

When a man falls in love with a woman, he will woo her by taking her handkerchief or finger ring. If the woman fancies the man, she makes a show of running away shyly; if not, she politely asks for the return of her belongings. When night falls, the woman opens the window of her room, and waits for her *xiayi* to climb in.

The stone houses in Zhaba are usually four or five storeys and more than 10 meters high. The man arrives at the woman's house and begins to climb up to his lover's open window when the other family members are asleep. If he is unable to climb to her window, or resorts to using a rope, the visiting marriage is deemed to be a failure.

This method is normally reserved for newly formed relationships, which can be a secret or an open visiting marriage. If the man no longer climbs to his *xiayi*'s room or the woman closes her window, it means that their love affair is over, or that either of them already has another *xiayi*.

Duojie added, with a laugh, "Of course there are exceptions. If the girl loves her *xiayi* dearly, she will do what ever she can to help him climb into her room, such as secretly letting down a rope. There are also those men who will carry a ladder for several kilometers to

visit a girl!"

## Women on top

According to Duojie, men generally maintain relatively stable love affairs with one woman, but some may have two or even more lovers at the same time. It is the same story for women. And a man who climbs into a woman's room without her permission, or simply climbs into the wrong house, will be severely punished.

While the male *xiayi* and female *xiayi* spend their whole lives with their respective maternal families; at night, after having dinner in his mother's home, the man will go and stay with his lover, and the next morning he will go back home to work. Their "marriage" is free and can come to an end if either partner no longer wants to stay with the other. There are no economic or legal ties. If a child is born into the family, they belong exclusively to the mother's side, inherit her surname, and are raised by their

mother and uncles.

Since women serve as the heads of the families, they are in charge of most of the work and handle all property matters. Everyone counts on her to make decisions in handling family affairs; while uncles look after the boys.

## A free life

The next day, we traveled deeper into the mountains to the village of Bali, where we met an 18-year-old man named Baima Zeren, wearing a broad-brimmed silk hat. He was keen to be our guide and enthusiastically talked about his experience of visiting marriage.

He started courting his first *xiayi* at the age of 15. Talking about his current lover, he pointed to a distant village on a mountainside on the far side of the river, some 1,000 meters above the river valley. Baima Zeren said he usually makes the trip to visit his *xiayi* three times a week.

"Why don't you marry your *Xiayi*?"



Resorting to ropes or ladders is considered cheating.  
Photo by Wang Tong

I asked, "Oh, no. We have a freer life in this way," He shook his head emphatically, "Based on visiting marriage, we don't have such heavy burdens as making money, cultivating land, building houses and feeding the children."

Baima Zeren lives with his sister and her children. "Suppose both your own child and your sister's were kidnapped and you could only save one, which one would you choose?" I ventured to ask.

After thinking for some time, he replied, "I'd save my sister's. He will support me till my death, but my own child won't."

"The biggest advantage of visiting marriage is we live in our mother's homes, and each of us work together and eat together. In the valley, we can't survive without the big family."

That night, we stayed in the home of a hospitable woman called Re Ge. As we were getting into our sleeping bags, I found Baima Zeren and Re Ge's family members sitting on a bench, staring at us in wonder. We are so different from each other: we sleep in sleeping bags and marry only one wife; while Baima and other Zhaba people have perhaps dozens of lovers, and the father or mother of their children live in different homes ...

**Getting there:** The Xianshui Valley is in a relatively inaccessible area of Sichuan. Fly to Chengdu and from there rent a vehicle and perhaps a guide.

Tonglicheng  
Local  
Escapes

## Where the Grass is Greener

By Wesley Lei

Bashang Caoyuan, 280 kilometers north of Beijing, is the closest Beijingers can get to experience the grassland of Inner Mongolia, without going (quite) all the way to Inner Mongolia.

Extending west from the Yanshan Mountains, the grasslands are about 90 kilometers northwest of the county seat of Fengning.

With average temperatures considerably lower than in Beijing, this is an ideal spot to escape the summer (or early autumn) heat. The period from May to November is the best time to visit, although snow can fall as early as October.

Horse and camel riding is available, and visitors can enter the homes of herders and sample some local dishes.



For those who want to take home a wild and wacky souvenir of their holiday, traditional Mongolian costumes are available for photo sessions.

Unless you are on a package tour, it's a good idea to prepare a picnic lunch, as once there, you won't find a supermarket this side of any horizon. For dinner, tourists can put in an

order for a sheep (or section thereof) roasted over the fire. This is a perfect time of the year to sit out under the stars and enjoy a barbecue and beer around a bonfire.

**Getting there:** Many local travel agents offer organized two or three-day trips for 200-300 yuan. Gushui Fuyuan Resort (沽水福源度假村) has a representative office in Beijing – Tel: 82081845

Driving from Beijing, there are two scenic routes. One passes through Yuanqing, Chicheng, Xiaochang and Guyuan. The other is via Yanqing, Qinglongxia, Fengning, Datun and Guyuan. Accommodation is usually simple, and if you opt to stay in a Mongolian *yurt* (45 yuan), you'll find little in the way of plumbing.



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